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"X-Way Opponents Win New Delay"

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10-10-64

Mrs. Parks - Overton

P.S. 10-10-64

X-Way Opponents Win New Delay

ELTON WHISENHUNT
Press-Scimitar Staff Writer

*A group of determined Mem-
phians battling to keep
the expressway out of Overton
Park had the state and federal
governments taking another
look today as another exhaus-
tive study was getting under
way.*

*Thus opponents have suc-
ceeded in getting another de-
lay.*

*The state Highway Depart-
ment's expressway project en-
gineer, L. G. Cantrell of Nash-
ville said he is now making
further studies which may take
from three to six months.
He had said a month ago he
might know by mid-October*

whether the planned route of the east - west expressway through Overton Park would be definite.

But that was scuttled following a meeting in Nashville Thursday. In the meeting were Gov. Clement, Highway Commissioner David Pack and four Memphians who are members of the Citizens Committee to Preserve Overton Park.

The Memphians are Mrs. Ralph W. Handy, chairman, Dr. Arlo I. Smith, Southwestern biology professor, Mrs. Watkins Overton and Mrs. Floyd Stoner.

They protested that the expressway would ruin Overton Park, all the wildlife would be killed and even the trees would

not grow as well.

Mrs. Handy said Gov. Clement told them he was "in sympathy" with them and he "didn't mind saying it in front of the engineers. He said he would prefer to keep the expressway out of the park."

ALTERNATE ROUTE

Mrs. Handy said Pack and chief expressway engineer W. E. Dunlap outlined three alternate routes to keep it out of the park. Running it through the park would cost almost \$20 million. An alternate route would add \$9 to \$11 million, said Cantrell.

Mrs. Handy and her group have written and wired President Johnson and Secretary of

Commerce Hodges numerous times.

MORE STUDY

Mrs. Handy received a letter Thursday from Rex M. Whitten, director of U. S. Bureau of Public Roads, which said in part:

"These studies for Interstate Highway 40, which include the impact on the community and Overton Park, have not been finalized. All responsible agencies continue to study this matter to assure the soundness of a plan to be followed.

"No effort is being spared to see that all considerations are properly balanced, and there are numerous considerations involved."

5 10-10-64 (P.S. 10-10-64)

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