

"Another Citizens' Battle"

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Editorial

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Another Citizens' Battle

Press-Scimitar

Just because a group of citizens fights a government proposal does not always mean the group is right. Sometimes the proposal is right.

An example is the long-standing verbal war waged by a group of Overton Park fans against construction of the Memphis East-West Expressway.

Recently this letter-writing campaign has been stepped up. But now it is being countered by voices which we believe represent the majority will of Memphis people. Their views have been expressed before, strongly and formally. But not day after day.

But in the past week a change has begun.

The other day, the Chamber of Commerce called on city officials to heed the rue "majority interests of the community," and get that expressway built.

Four-fifths of our city commissioners asserted the pro-expressway view—and they are men who should know what direction the wind of public opinion is blowing.

Philip Perel, in a Letter to the Editor The Press-Scimitar, called on those favoring action on the expressway to "make

their wishes known, stand and be counted." And they are doing so.

Miss Annelle Ramer, who lives near the expressway route and loves Overton Park, was formerly a foe of the expressway. But yesterday she said she had become convinced the expressway was right. Her mother, Mrs. C. G. Ramer, said "rush hour traffic is terrible . . . a city this size must have this (expressway)." They drew a petition, passed it around the neighborhood, got 100 signatures in nothing flat and sent it to City Hall.

And Thornton G. Emmons, who also fought the east-west at first, said he had changed his mind and was for the expressway. "The proposed plan looks like the only direct route they have for the road," he said. "The sooner it can be built, the better."

* * *

Let's back up our state, county and city officials in their determination to get this East-West Expressway built.

You fume-breathers who are sick to death of the twice-daily 30-minute struggle out Union, Poplar, etc., sound off. Write your letter. Draw your petition. Speak your piece.

favoring action