

responsibility. In this case, local authorities propose to pay only \$600,000 of the total cost. The bill also authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to use his emergency fund to pay the full cost of repairing disaster-caused damage to forest highways under his jurisdiction and to various roads and trails under the jurisdiction of the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior. This section was occasioned by the recent earthquakes in the vicinity of Yellowstone Park which damaged some National Park and National Forest roads. In the absence of this section, the cost of repairs would be met by reprogramming funds available to the Department concerned. The section provides a method for bypassing the budget and appropriation process. The bill also provides \$3 million of additional contract authority for constructing bridges over Federal dams. Since such bridges can be constructed with ordinary Federal-aid funds, which have been greatly increased since the original authorization for bridges over dams, the Department of Commerce and this Bureau opposed the new contract authority when it was under consideration as a separate bill.

We doubt the wisdom or necessity of these miscellaneous provisions. However, we do not believe they are of sufficient importance to warrant disapproval of the main provisions.

C. Future legislation

In responding to our request for views on the enrolled bill, the Special Assistant for Public Works Planning asked us to bring to your attention his proposed amendment to the highway laws designed to restrict the use of Interstate Highway funds on projects serving primarily local needs. His proposed language is attached.

Assistant Director for  
Legislative Reference

Enclosures

