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STATE WILL FACE HARVARD SQUARE TRAFFIC PROBLEM

Square Business Men Urge Removal of Subway Rotunda -- Blanchard to Offer Alternative Plan

NO WRITER ATTRIBUTED

To move the subway rotunda out of the center of Harvard square entirely, to reduce it in size, or to do nothing at all, leave traffic problems unsolved, and save the people's money--these will be the three choices before the Committee on Street Railways of the Massachusetts legislature, when the question of Harvard square traffic congestion comes up for a hearing some time within the next two weeks. It is likely that the committee will reach a decision culminating a dispute which has raged ever since the construction of the rotunda fifteen years ago.

Mr. George Wright, president of the Harvard square Business Men's Association, has just filed a petition with the legislature calling for the replacement of the present rotunda by a new exit and entrance on the corner of Dunster street and Massachusetts avenue. This proposal is vigorously opposed by Representative Arthur F. Blanchard '04 of Cambridge, himself a member of the committee which will decide the matter. Mr. Blanchard is sponsor for the less expensive alternative of reducing the size of the station.

Opposed Removal of Structure

"A mess!" was Mr. Blanchard's pungent characterization of the Business Men's Association plan, when a CRIMSON reporter asked his opinion of it. "It leaves no suitable shelter from rain for people who are waiting for cars in the center of the square," he said. "And the proposed exit in front of the Cambridge Trust Co. building would allow no escalator, and only a narrow stairway. The underground structure furthermore is complicated, and people would have to go under the outward bound trains to reach the inward bound. There would also be conflicting lines of traffic in the corridors.

Would Cost \$150,000

"Mr. Wright does not state the cost of such a change, but it would be close to \$150,000. My plan would cost little more than \$25,000. Those in favor of Mr. Wright's plan," he concluded, "are looking at the question through a microscope, in trying to solve it entirely at Harvard square. The congestion could be relieved much more easily by improving the streets from Porter to Kendall squares by way of Beacon street, and Hampshire street so that the northeast Arlington traffic would not need to go through the square at all." Mr. Wright, yesterday, declined to comment either in defense of his own plan or in criticism of Mr. Blanchard's.