Philippine Safety Council

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Founder and Executive Director

OVEMBER marks the 1954 observance of National Safety and Accident Prevention Week. Most of this month's column will deal with this factor. Suffice it to say that during 1954 more attention has been directed to various safety problems than during any pre-The Safety vious period here. Council takes pardonable pride in mentioning that, at long last and after many frustrations, a large number of its ideas have been implemented by government agencies, or adopted as fact.

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Considerable credit is due the business community for these advances, in all fairness. Example: The membership of the Council doubled during the last year and now exceeds 200 leading firms and businessmen. Example: Approximately 50 firms instituted company safety programs of one kind or another during the year, many of them under Council direction. Example: A substantial number of firms sponsored some type of community safety movement, or made material contribution to such activities, during the year. Example: Many firms began to devote real attention to the functioning of their Company Safety Committees, heretofore a perfunctory operation; one important result of this has been the inauguration of Safety Contests and Safety Awards in several business firms.

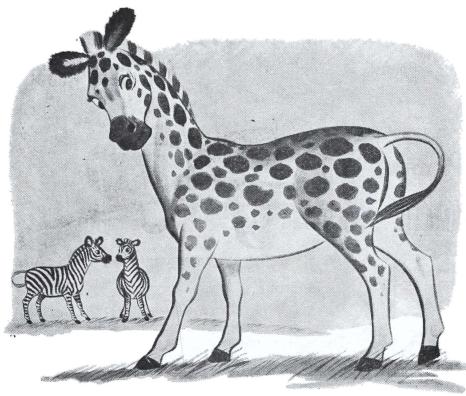
The Government indicated growing alarm over accident-prone conditions in different fields. In March, the Fire Prevention Board and the Manila Fire Department conducted an unusually energetic fire-prevention week campaign. A few months later the Safety Engineering Division of the Department of Labor made many inspections of business and industrial establishments, looking for unsafe working conditions. Only recently an emphatic campaign has been undertaken, at the order of the President of the Philippines, to enforce traffic laws and regulations. There were other instances, but the examples given mark the general trend.

As pointed out in a recent article in this Journal, Business stands to be among the first to profit by reduced accident rates. That this fact is recognized by most businessmen is borne out by the highly satisfactory interest taken in safety matters by their establishments. We have also mentioned the improvement noted in Government attention to safety. Additional credit can be

claimed by civic organizations, the press and radio, and the foreign-aid program of the United States. The main lack seems to be reflected from the general public itself, including labor elements. No labor group has so much as inquired about the safety movement from the Council, although it would appear that they would be vitally interested. By the same token, one needs only

to observe walking and driving practises on our streets to realize that the great mass of the populace is extremely negligent in safety matters and in obedience to regulations adopted to protect life and limb.

We close this commentary on National Safety Week, 1954, with the observation that although progress has been made, much remains to be done. We have "only scratched the surface" in the "national safety movement". The support of the members of the American business community has been most helpful, and is greatly appreciated.



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