

Philippine Safety Council

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Founder and Executive Director

ACTIVITIES connected with summarizing safety matters for 1951 and instituting the 1952 "national safety movement" are making Council officials wish for more hours in the day. It is gratifying, however, that safety has taken hold as it has done, and this gives encouragement with which to face current tasks.

The change in the Manila police administration may foreshadow improvements in the traffic situation as well as in public safety matters generally. The Council is keeping a close liaison in this matter and has offered its assistance to the new Mayor and Chief of Police.

Considerable approbation has been received in connection with the message intended for the NALATROA convention which was widely published and editorialized last month. Responsibility of transportation operators for the driving practices of their drivers was stressed. Considerable editorial comment was recently noted which demanded re-testing of for-hire drivers before the issuance of new licenses. It seems inevitable that public opinion will soon cause a drastic change in the policy connected with the licensing of both drivers and vehicles. The Council has submitted appropriate recommendations to proper authority four years consecutively.

New Council members include Woodworks, Inc., and Allied Investigation Bureau, Inc. This brings the number of local company members to 61. During the month of January a special campaign will be undertaken to increase the number of insurance company members, which now stands at 13. Additional interest has been evinced in the new payroll-delivery plan, which is receiving the support of business firms and insurance companies alike.

Accident experience over the holidays was somewhat disappointing, with many persons being killed or injured in avoidable "accidents",

against which public warnings had been issued. Illegal and negligent handling of explosives contributed to the mishaps, as well as reckless driving, firing of weapons, brawls, and altar-candle fires. The bright side was however reported by Council clients who reported no unusual incidents over the holidays. Taxicab experience, in particular, was very good. This appears to prove that accidents can be prevented, providing proper attention and preparation is given in advance.

Current Council projects are about the same as those reported in the

Journal last month. A noticeable slowness in obtaining answers from government agencies has held back some of these plans. A new member's service now being created is a "Driver's Accident Reporting Kit", a group of simple forms and instructions designed to reduce the confusion frequently resulting from incomplete or incorrect reporting procedures. Free safety inspections have been offered to the Philippine Navy. Recent communications from the International Association of Chiefs of Police promise an even closer liaison with that professional body.



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