

REMARKS

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

THE PRESIDENT'S SAFETY AWARD CEREMONY

WASHINGTON, D.C.

JUNE 27, 1966

President Johnson made our commitment clear last year when he launched Mission SAFETY-70 -- a revolution in which safety has spread from the federal service to highway safety and on to other accident-*Prevention* ~~prevention~~ activities. This is a revolution that preserves life, reduces hardship and eliminates pain and suffering for thousands of people.

With your help we have adopted and revised auto-safety standards for the purchase of federal vehicles in 1967 and 1968. We have sought to assure all citizens the benefits of such standards by incorporating similar ones in the President's Highway Safety bill now before the Congress.

It is heartening to note the action that has already flowed from your response to the President's call for a 30 per cent reduction in federal employee injuries and associated cost by 1970.

In this past year ~~has in the past~~

- The all-federal injury frequency rate has dropped 4.3 per cent.

-- But to fulfill the Mission you must reduce it at least another 5.5 per cent next year.

this past year Fourteen large agencies employing over three-fourths

ways of all federal employees have reduced their frequency *all the* from 2 to 26 per cent *reduction*. I commend this favorable beginning.

-- But to fulfill the Mission all agencies, large and small, must show further substantial declines next year.

this past year One thousand fewer disabling injuries occurred among federal employees.

-- But to fulfill the Mission you must double this reduction next year.

We have many things to do during the next year.

~~We must make further inroads on costly accidents.~~

↳ We need to set up better reporting systems so we can know more about accident causes and costs.

↳ We do not know today how much accidents cost. Property damage, fire losses, tort claims, motor vehicle accident costs are all incomplete or not available. Only compensation, ~~leave~~ ^{vacations} and ^{and leave} medical costs are definitely known.

↳ ~~Our~~ ^{our} systems should be uniform so we can make government-wide summaries and analyses, so we can clearly identify and effectively deal with our problems.

↳ We must attack off-the-job accidents without relaxing our efforts on-the-job.

Federal employees suffer just as much, and their skills are just as much lost to their country, if they are injured in preventable accidents away from work as at their daily tasks. I ask that we all drive carefully over the Fourth of July and practice safety on our vacations and all those odd jobs around the house that we get involved in.

* * *

I am proud to recognize today the winners of the President's Safety Awards for their all-round progress in safeguarding their employees and for their contribution to Mission SAFETY-70. There are three Awards, one for agencies employing over 75,000 civilian workers; one for those employing 10,000 to 75,000; and the third for those with fewer than 10,000.

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Air Force

The first Award goes this year to the Air Force which coincidentally won the first President's Award ever issued back in 1955. It is my pleasure to present this award to Secretary Harold Brown.

The Air Force's ^{accident} frequency rate is not only well below the federal average, but has been declining for some years. It has attacked motor vehicle accidents, which it called the "No. 1 non-combat killer of Air Force personnel" with a very detailed and thoughtful program. It was commended for its 19-per cent reduction in traffic fatalities by President Johnson on the first anniversary of Mission SAFETY-70 last February. Another reason for its record, I suspect, is its extensive safety training program which ranges from correspondence courses to "graduate" study in advanced safety management.

The Air Force learned early the importance of safety. I was intrigued to learn that its voluminous files of accident data on aerospace safety disclosed that the first aircraft accident occurred in 1908 at Ft. Myer, Virginia, seriously injuring Orville Wright.

You have earned your Award, Mr. Secretary, and I am proud to present it to you and your civilian personnel.

Sect Harold Brown

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General Services Administration

The second winner is the General Services Administration which master-minded the issuance of the government's auto safety standards and installed seat belts on our federal vehicles. These Awards are a habit with GSA too. This is its third award. It is my pleasure to present this award to Administrator Lawson B. Knott.

↳ You are the government's landlord, purchasing agent, record-keeper and giant supermarket for supplies and equipment. You employ some 36,000 people and manage an investment of nearly 12 billion dollars. You too engage in extensive safety training, including improved driving techniques. It is a pleasure to present this Award to GSA and congratulate you on your record.

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Labor Department

The third Award goes to the Department whose Secretary is responsible to President Johnson for reporting progress and problems with Mission SAFETY-70. The Secretary is Willard Wirtz and the agency is the Labor Department. This agency's ^{accident} frequency has always been way below the federal average and has been declining further in the last few years.

L Its employees worked a full man-year without a fatality in 1965. To fulfill its part of this Mission, the Department nonetheless reorganized its safety program, ~~hired~~ the first full-time safety officer for its own employees, and provided places for union safety representatives on Departmental and Bureau safety committees.

It's a pleasure to present this Award to you,
Mr. Secretary.

* * *

L Now we have recipients who deserve Honorable Mention for their safety performance. By coincidence all were winners of the President's Award last year. I suppose this means they have continued their safety interest and activity, but a few other fellows determined to beat them and did so. We hope they will be spurred to even greater effort next year by the competition.

The first Honorable Mention goes to the Department of Agriculture and to Secretary Freeman. *Joseph Robertson ASST*

∟ The second certificate of Honorable Mention goes to the Department of Interior and Secretary Udall. Conservation and beautification can be safe, especially when Secretary Udall conserves his strength as Mrs. Johnson paddles their canoe through the rapids.

∟ The third certificate goes to the Government Printing Office and to the Public Printer, Mr. James L. Harrison.

I've always heard that emotional stress caused accidents.

I don't see how you keep your balance when you have to print all the speeches made by the Members of Congress.

But you do.

Harry Merold - Deputy Public Printer

In closing, let me admonish you as I did in the beginning:

Go forth and reduce your injury frequency at least 5 to 10 per cent next year.

Double the number of disabling injuries you prevent next year.

Step up your motor vehicle safety program, and your off-the-job program.

Good luck to you.

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