Reducing Highway Deaths

The Michigan Auto Club has completed a sobering examination of the state's traffic accidents in 1968. The report shows that highway deaths declined by 34 per cent last year when 2,481 persons lost their lives on our roads and streets, a 6.8 per cent increase over 1967. The Auto Club has conducted 10 previous studies on Michigan traffic accidents and deaths since 1966. It is the 10th consecutive year that the Auto Club has conducted a similar study. The following are the Auto Club's findings:

1. The drinking driver who is involved in at least 50 to 65 per cent of all fatal accidents.
2. The problem driver who makes up five per cent of the driving population yet is involved in up to 50 per cent of the fatal accidents.
3. The young driver who makes 21 per cent of the driving population yet is involved in 37 per cent of the fatal accidents.

The Auto Club's "Bring 'Em Back Alive" slogan has become a safety word in the state's efforts to solve some practical solutions to the problems, including lowering the speed limits on unneeded roads to 50 miles per hour and night. Without adequate police manpower to patrol these highways and arrest the speeding drivers, an effective solution is difficult.

The Auto Club points out that the physical condition of Michigan's highways and country roads also can be blamed as a major cause of traffic injuries and deaths. Currently, 40 per cent of the 51,676 miles of Michigan roads and streets are inadequate for current traffic needs. This includes 38,000 miles of country roads where 70 per cent of the state's traffic accidents now happen. When just state trunklines are considered, 82 per cent have defects ranging from narrow pavement to substantial control traffic.

Andrew Tully:
Schism in the Cabinet

WASHINGTON - Symptomatic of the widening schism in President Nixon's Cabinet was recent criticism of Administration officials by Attorney General John Mitchell against Health, Education, and Welfare Secretary Robert Finch over the invasion of Finch's office by a squad of "We shall not forget." The incident occurred in the Cabinet Room, which has been described as a meeting place for top-ranking officials.

Other Cabinet members who made similar attacks against the Cabinet member who made the remark, but lack quoted him as saying "this thing will blow over in 24 hours.

Demonstrators Arrested

Meanwhile, it was learned that President Nixon ordered Secretary Finch through a White House assistant to "Get those people out of there," and the welfare group had occupied the office for nearly two hours. The incident led to a heated argument between the President and his top advisers.

1. Support a legislative program to lower the blood-alcohol level to a level legally drunk from 0.1 to 0.2.
2. Remove the problem driver from the road.
3. Modify restraining devices to your drivers.

The Auto Club recommends that local clubs sponsor highway safety programs, without added financing, as recommended by the Auto Club.