

Motorists Face New Responsibility On State Highways

SALEM—In an address to the people of Oregon, Secretary of State Earl T. Newbry served notice on all motorists that they must drive more carefully and be prepared to pay promptly for damages they cause in accidents or expect to lose, both their driving license and registration of ownership within 60 days, under the state's new motor vehicle safety responsibility law, which becomes effective Aug. 2.

Unlike the present financial responsibility law, which is repealed as of Aug. 2, the new law does not allow any motorist a free first accident, Mr. Newbry emphasized. It goes to work immediately following the accident, requires proof of financial responsibility up to \$11,000 within 50 days thereafter, and compels enforcement of a suspension order within another 10 days upon failure to furnish proof in the form of insurance or cash, he explained.

Because the new law operates so swiftly, requires application of its penalties automatically with-

in specific periods following an accident, and applies to all drivers involved in an accident regardless of fault, Secretary Newbry declared that the state had obtained the co-operation of "the public spirited press and radio stations" in conducting a public educational campaign from now until the enforcement date or Aug. 2. The law provides, he said, ample means by which motorists can protect themselves and the public before they become involved in an accident.

Here, briefly and simply stated, are the new rules that will apply to motor vehicle drivers and owners on and after Aug. 2, as explained by Secretary Newbry in his message:

In the event of an accident resulting in death or injury, or any amount of property damage, every driver involved must file a written report with the Secretary of State within 24 hours. Special forms will be provided for such reports. Failure to report is subject to a fine up to \$100 and suspension of driving or ownership licenses. If death or injury are not involved, or property damage doesn't exceed \$100, the security provisions of the safety responsibility law does not apply to the accident. If any person was killed or even slightly injured, or if property damage exceeded \$100 however, the security provisions apply promptly and things begin to happen.

A driver who had in effect at the time of the accident a form of liability insurance or bond which covers damage claims up to \$11,000, automatically satisfies the security requirements of the law and has nothing more to worry about, as far as that ac-

cident is concerned. A driver who was not thus insured at the time of the accident will be advised by the Secretary of State how much cash he must deposit to meet possible claims for the damage he caused. The amount will be determined by the extent of the damage, but may not exceed \$5,000 for death or injury to one person, \$10,000 for death or injury to more than one person, and \$1,000 for property damage, a possible total of \$11,000.

The security provisions of the new law does not apply if an uninsured driver obtained a release from liability signed by all other persons to the accident, receive a final decree of non-liability from a court, executes a written agreement to pay all damage claims up to \$11,000, or proves that his car was legally parked or was being driven without his consent at the time of the accident. If collateral has not been deposited or one of these provisions met within 50 days after the accident, suspension or both driving and ownership licenses becomes effective 10 days later—a total of 60 days after the accident.

"It all adds up to this," Secretary of State Newbry said, "the day when any driver or owner of a motor vehicle—can become involved in an accident and fail to pay for the damage he has done will end abruptly in Oregon on Aug. 2. They will either pay in cash or pay by losing their motoring privileges. And those who can't keep out of accidents will learn that the safety responsibility law gives the state an effective means of taking them from behind the wheel permanently, for the safety of the 85 per cent who drive lawfully.

"You can't duck this law, so don't try. It allows no free accidents; it has no technical loopholes. Its penalties are automatic both as to circumstance and time. It doesn't say 'may'—it says 'must.' So the secretary could not set them aside if he wished—and this particular secretary, quite frankly, in view of the conditions that exist, would not if he could. Our new law was not enacted lightly; it will not be enforced lightly. It has been fully endorsed by every safety organization in the country."

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the unregulated use of certain forest areas is, in the judgment of the State Forester, a menace to life and property due to conditions tending to cause or allow the rapid spread of fires which might occur or be-

cause of the inaccessible character of such areas due to the lack of suitable roads, and WHEREAS, upon the showing of the State Forester it appears to me to be necessary to close to unregulated use the following areas designated as: AREA NO. R-1: All National Forests in Oregon and adjacent areas protected by the United States Forest Service as follows: Adjacent to Siskiyou National Forest: Section 31, T. 32 S., R. 8W.; T. 32 S., R. 9W.; T. 33 S., R. 8 W.; T. 34 S., Rs. 8, 11 and 13 W., T. 35 S., Rs. 8, 11 and 12 W.; T. 39 S., R. 12 W.; Sections 1 and 12, T. 40 S., R. 7 W.; T. 41 S., R. 8 W.; Section 9, T. 41 S., R. 9 W.; T. 41 S., Rs 11 and 12 W. NOW, THEREFORE, I, Douglas McKay, Governor of the State of Oregon, by virtue of the authority vested in me under the provisions of Section 107-210, Oregon Compiled Laws Annotated, as amended by Chapter 252, Oregon Laws, 1945, do hereby proclaim the unregulated use of the above-

and do hereby close said areas and the same shall be subject to use only upon conditions that entrants shall comply with all of the following requirements or conditions: (1) To refrain from smoking while traveling in such areas. (2) To secure a permit issued by the forester or a fire warden before building a campfire other than at improved, designated and posted campgrounds on such areas. (3) To have as a part of his or her equipment when using campfires, except when traveling as a pedestrian and/or camping at improved, designated and posted campgrounds, tools as specified by the forester suitable for extinguishing fires. This proclamation shall be effective from and after the 1st day of July, 1951, and shall remain in full force and effect until and including the 31st day of December, 1951. Done at the Capitol in Salem, Oregon, this 21st day of June, 1951. s/ Douglas McKay, Governor; attest: Earl T. Newbry, Secretary of State.

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