

Safer Cars Object Of House Committee Hearings Set Soon

By Congressional Quarterly
Washington (CQ)—A House subcommittee next month will hold hearings on a bill designed to force auto makers to build safer cars.

The hearings will pit Rep. Kenneth A. Roberts (D-Ala.), the five-term Congressman who pushed through a law requiring manufacturers to put escape handles inside their refrigerators, against the might of Detroit.

Pointing to the chilling statistics on highway accidents, Roberts contends "the time is ripe for some measures that will improve the situation. But we're bucking the richest industry in the country. It won't be an easy fight."

The bill to be discussed at the hearings starting July 7 would forbid the Federal Government to buy cars not equipped with safety features recommended by the Secretary of Commerce. Since the Federal Government is such a giant customer, Roberts believes such a law would result in the specified safety features becoming a standard equipment on all cars.

Roberts says the kinds of safety devices he has in mind are attachments for safety belts, padded dashboards to reduce the chance of skull fractures in a collision; steering wheels designed to keep the driver from being speared by the steering column in a crash; roof-top bars which would support the car if it rolled over; and better "packaging" of the driver and passengers. Packaging suggestions made to date include seats designed to support the back to prevent "whiplash" injuries.

"I don't see any reason," Roberts says, "why autos should be any more exempt from Federal safety standards than airplanes." He contends setting safety standards for automobiles "is the same principle as making canned goods and drugs come up to standards of safety. The auto industry ought to put every known practical safety device on cars."

At the hearings, the auto industry is expected to emphasize that it too is vitally concerned with making cars safer and is adding devices as soon as they are adequately tested. The manufacturers say precious little is known about what actually causes highway injuries. They point to numerous research projects they are supporting to get facts to guide them in designing safer cars. They are expected to oppose Federal standards

on grounds more basic research must be done first. To many people, Roberts in this fight against Detroit looks like a pedestrian trying to knock over a Cadillac. But he is optimistic, partly because of the support he expects to get from medicine.

The toll on the highways (37,000 deaths and 4.7 million injuries in 1958) has reached epidemic proportions. So epidemiologists in several quarters are seeing what can be done about the environment, instead of just trying to cure the victims. The American College of Surgeons, Armed Forces Epidemiological Board and Public Health Service all have in the works projects taking this epidemic approach.

As long ago as 1955 Dr. C. Hunter Sheldon told his colleagues in an article in the American Medical Association Journal that "the elimination of the mechanically hazardous features of interior construction (of cars) would prevent approximately 75 per cent of the fatalities, or 28,500 deaths each year." The American College of Surgeons Feb. 19, 1955 adopted a resolution urging auto makers to "stress occupant safety as a basic factor in automobile design."

The industry has come up with several safety features since then, but not enough in the eyes of Roberts and some others in and outside of Government. Roberts pointed to a thick file of letters from the public supporting his Federal standards bill. One parent, in supporting Roberts' bill, wrote: "I have a boy 17 and a girl who will be 16 this summer. I suspect the automobile will present the greatest single risk to them in the next 10 years."

After the July hearings, Roberts' bill must receive approval of the parent House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee before it can get to the floor for a vote. It is unlikely that with such a late start the controversial bill will reach the House floor before adjournment. The Senate has no hearings scheduled on similar legislation.

But if the subcommittee hearings accomplish nothing else, Roberts contends they will help turn public attention away from horsepower and toward horse-sense in highway safety. He says he will keep pushing his bill for Federal standards well beyond 1959 if necessary. (Copyright 1959, Congressional Quarterly Inc.) (Copyright 1959,



MISSING WITH ITS crew for 16 years, this U. S. B-24 bomber was found in barren Libyan desert 440 miles southeast of Benghazi. Pentagon was unable to explain why plane crashed or what happened to its crew.

Fast-Buck Artists And Their Schemes Told by Manager

Jackson county has its share of suckers and fast-buck artists, Don McNeil reported at the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce roundtable luncheon yesterday.

"Apparently," said McNeil, the chamber's manager, "the pocket book is the least sensitive part of a person." He entitled his talk, "Sure, They'll Take Your Money."

McNeil described several schemes inflicted with amazing success by dupsters on local residents. The chamber of commerce can take no legal steps to assist victims of such schemes, he explained. It can simply offer advice, he added, and keep the community informed.

Not Prohibited
McNeil also explained that these activities for the most part are not prohibited by law. The individual citizen must protect himself.

One, practiced for years by the notorious "Terrible Williams," he called "The Chiseled Price." The approach: someone comes to your door, offering to sell some fine old Irish lace, a family heirloom. The gimmick: the lace, and other such materials, are manufactured by a Chicago firm for one-tenth the asking price.

Another form of chiseled price McNeil called "The Septic Tank Racket." The approach: you are told you can have your septic tank cleaned out for a mere .04 cents a pound. The gimmick: at this rate, the fee may be well over \$100. When you are duly astounded, you are told the price will be cut to \$75 as a special favor, but you must not tell your neighbors since

competitors would be unhappy.

\$35 Average Price
Actually, McNeil said, a septic tank cleaning by a reputable service should cost about \$35. The Williams and others of their ilk, he said, have also entered such fields as roof spraying and lawn fertilizing.

Another scheme now in vogue is "The Advance Fee," McNeil reported. One approach: marginal businesses are offered an advertising service to sell their plants at only 1 1/2 per cent of the sales price—payable in advance. Advertising on 200 newspapers across the country is promised.

The gimmick: the business is advertised by tiny items in small, out-of-the-way newspapers with low rates, and many business owners never receive inquiries for their property.

Pay In Advance
Or this approach: correspondence schools promise to help you become an airline hostess or a beauty operator. The gimmick: one pays for the course in advance, signing a contract with no cancellation clause, no matter what your age or size. A 180-pound girl, as McNeil explained it, could sign up for the course but would stand little if any chance of becoming an airline hostess.

Still another approach: you are offered a substantial loan, subject to the low rate of 1 1/2 per cent payable only if the company approves your application. The gimmick: the company approves your application, you pay the 1 1/2 per cent, and that's that. The application may be approved, but the loan itself is another matter.

Coupon Books
The coupon book, McNeil reported, is another approach: the gimmick: when the service companies discover too many people are coming in with coupons, they decide not to honor them. And you, the sucker, are stuck with a handful of worthless paper.

Business opportunities, McNeil said, offer another fertile field. One approach: you are offered, for a franchise costing you about \$1,200, a vending machine route you are told should bring in as much as \$1,000 a month. The gimmick: once you discover the owners of the stores where they are located do not want them around any more.

Or, a second approach: you are told you can learn reweaving and earn money at home. The gimmick: of course, you must buy a \$36 reweaving machine. Once you have learned this skill, you discover no one has much reweaving to be done—at least not by you. Such companies, McNeil explained, want to sell that machine, not teach you reweaving.

Address Envelopes
A third business opportunity: you address envelopes advertising a product, and are offered a commission on sales. The gimmick: you must prove

Mickey Cohen Said Free With Gifts

Los Angeles (UPI)—Stripper Candy Barr told internal revenue agents Monday that ex-gambler Mickey Cohen was free and easy in showering her with expensive gifts during their brief romance.

The exotic dancer, subpoenaed by Internal Revenue Service which is looking into the source of Cohen's finances said the pudgy ex-boxer gave her a diamond ring, fur coat and other gifts but that she returned everything after their affair cooled off last month.

Grange News

Gold Hill Grange
Because many members of Gold Hill Grange attended graduation ceremonies for members of their families, attendance dropped considerably at the last meeting, Thursday, June 4.

However, a business meeting was conducted by the master, Charles Foote. The main report given was by the Agriculture Chairman Chauncey Page.

Page stated that farm wages and other production costs had been rising at the rate of 5 per cent a year, and the trend is expected to continue through this year, even going higher. With prices received down and costs up the cost-price squeeze will pinch most farmers.

Marie Christensen spoke on the use of garlic extract, the newest antibiotic, used in plant diseases. It was brought to the attention of members that strawberry pickers are needed.

The meeting concluded, refreshments were served by Bertha Potter and the Loefflers, Josephine and Mary-anna.

Jackson School

By Linda Johnson and Carolyn Cole

The weeks have been busy weeks at Jackson school. The library helpers have worked hard on inventory. We are fortunate in having none of the books missing. On Wednesday, May 27, a party was given by Mrs. Precia Medley, head librarian, to the library workers. Bruce Metzger, principal, gave a talk and presented them their library letters.

The three remaining days of school brought final examinations to the upper grades. It has also brought picnics for everyone.

The close of school was June 3 for the fourth, fifth and sixth grades and June 4 for the lower grades.

The sixth graders had an enjoyable time at McLoughlin Junior high. They had seventh grade students to tour them through the building.

A very impressive flag ceremony was held at Jackson school in memory of John Foster Dulles. Catherine Watson, student body president, and Kenneth Curtis, president-elect, presided. Mrs. Margaret Nesheim led the students in singing The Star Spangled Banner and Faith of Our Fathers.

that your, yourself, were responsible for the sale. Another field McNeil discussed is promotion.

A promoter comes to town, McNeil said, and offers to bring industry—that "magic word"—into the community. The promoter is paid in advance for his services, and disappears without producing any industry. "The Acceptable Front" McNeil called another promotion scheme. The approach: a service club is approached by the promoter of some road show or entertainer, and talked into sponsoring a "benefit performance." The gimmick: the benefit is mostly the promoter's, since according to the contract he may get as much as 80 per cent of the proceeds.

Youths' Thinking Flatters Actress

Las Vegas (UPI)—Bosomy Jayne Mansfield says it's not her fault if the nation's youth knows more about her statistics than the second Commandment.

"I can't help it if I'm on their minds," she said. "It's a free country and a free world and I'm flattered that the youth of the world is thinking about me."

Miss Mansfield was replying to criticism made in London by evangelist Billy Graham who said the present generation knows more about her statistics than the command-

ment which orders that "thou shalt not make unto thee any image . . ."

"As far as physical attributes and sex are concerned, one can't help it if one is given by nature and God a certain physical stature and being," said the blonde. "And, I don't want to change mine."

FRENCH KILL 471
Algiers, Algeria (UPI)—French forces killed or wounded 471 Algerian rebels and took 211 other prisoners last week, the French army reported Monday night. French losses were put at 34 killed.

Results of a California study indicate that nearly one third of asthmas and hay fever victims do not seek medical attention. MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, Or. Tuesday, June 9, 1959

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