

State Officials Seek Action To Curb Traffic Carnage

By WILLIAM A. LANGLEY
Staff Reporter

Maine's highway death toll—now at record-breaking proportions—has come under the close scrutiny of state and local officials.

All feel immediate action is needed to curb the carnage. Suggestions include stronger motor vehicle laws and the awakening of public safety. Some officials question the value of statistics.

The state's highway fatality total Thursday was 22 or 31 more than had been killed last year at this time. This is also five more persons killed than in 1964, the year of the previous record.

Some officials say statistics

are meaningless as they are currently compiled. Others said one highway death is too many.

Gov. John H. Reed has called for "stronger deterrent statutes" to reduce the death toll.

"WE MUST HAVE strong laws to deter people from taking risks on the road," the governor said. "I have long been tremendously concerned with the high fatality toll in Maine. I am in the process of discussing with Jack S. Alwood, chairman of the Maine Highway Safety Committee, regarding possible legislation for the special session of the Legislature."

Reed said he hopes to have his proposal ready for the

special session, but would rather wait until then to reveal the plan.

He said he was opposed to legislation "now on my desk" providing for restoration of drivers' licenses to proven hardship cases.

The governor said he would spell out his reasons for opposing the bill in his message to the Legislature.

SECRETARY OF STATE Kenneth M. Curtis has urged that a complete review of all state agencies having to do with safety be made before the 103rd Legislature convenes.

"The state's highway safety agencies should approach the Legislature collectively, instead of separately, for funds

and reforms," he said. "The safety needs can't be defined agency by agency."

Curtis said all agencies should get together and develop an overall program for Maine's safety needs.

"There are far too many highway fatalities for a state this size," Curtis said.

He said public apathy is one factor for the spiraling death and accident rate.

"STATISTICS are a poor way to measure deaths," he said. "To say we have had a good year, or a bad year is a poor way to gauge our programs."

"We shouldn't be satisfied with just equalling last year's

death rate. Even one death is needless, when there is technically no need for any," Curtis said.

Robert A. Marx, Maine State Police Chief, proposed two measures to control highway fatalities.

Although highway deaths can never be completely eliminated, he suggested a massive driver education program.

He also suggested that drivers who cause accidents should lose their licenses.

"The right to drive carries the responsibility to drive safely," he said. "If you cause an accident, your license should be liable in addition to civil liability."

"WHAT WE LACK in this situation is a deterrent, and the license is the only meaningful deterrent."

Marx said it takes poison to kill poison. Highway deaths are a problem of violence, so even the deterrent must be violent.

He said that actually, fatalities have been reduced in the past few years, if they are figured on the basis of mileage, and the accident frequency has been climbing.

He said more gas is being sold, people are driving more miles, more cars are on the road, and there are more drivers. On that basis, he said, the fatality picture is decreasing.

"We have better cars, better highways and better safety equipment but the progress of driver proficiency has not kept pace," he said.

THE GREAT BULK of accidents involve normal drivers who are not reckless but they just haven't kept up with developments in the field he declared.

"The one objective in this thing is to eliminate accidents, and the one cause is the human factor," he said.

Portland Police Chief Leon R. Webber said there was "no rhyme, rhythm or reason to it."

"We are fortunate we don't

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Associated Press Cablephoto from Rome

A Christmas For Peace

Pope Paul Renews His Call For Peace In Viet Nam

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Paul VI called Thursday night for peace in Viet Nam, saying "true peace is to be found in the alliance of love."

"We must come to terms with our neighbor, and today we are all neighbors, to resort to armed defense," the pontiff said in his Christmas message to the world. "And no one ought to shrink just and sincere negotiations to restore order and friendship."

Thus, without mentioning Viet Nam by name, the Pope put the Roman Catholic Church, with its half billion members, behind

every effort that could lead to a peaceful settlement.

"At one point, appealing to both sides in the war, he pleaded: 'Check the way things are going. It is possible that you are on the wrong track. Stop and think. True wisdom is to be found in peace.'"

The Christmas message, recorded Wednesday for radio and television, was broadcast by the Vatican and by networks throughout Europe and elsewhere.

Earlier in the day, Vatican sources reported he was "ex-

Pressure Building On Johnson To Look For Permanent Truce

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER
WASHINGTON (AP)—The Johnson administration faces a massive worldwide buildup of pressure in the next two days to try to convert the prospective Christmas truce in Viet Nam into a permanent cease-fire and a decisive step toward peace talks.

State Department officials, aware that would-be peacekeepers are rapidly going to work on both sides, maintained a wary silence.

U.S. and South Vietnamese leaders in Saigon ordered their forces to shoot only in self-defense, starting Christmas Eve and continuing through Christmas.

Officials expect the first 12 hours will probably hold, since the Communists themselves called on Dec. 1 for a 12-hour halt to hostilities the night before Christmas.

Sen. Mike Mansfield, D-Mont., who recently conferred with President Johnson and the secretary of state Dean Rusk said he would like to see the United States keep a peace offensive

going with an offer to extend the cease-fire to include the Vietnamese New Year Jan. 21.

Officials here and at the Pentagon and the White House watched for results of peace calls issued by Pope Paul VI and by U.N. Secretary-General U Thant. These were taken as the outward evidence of intensive secret diplomatic activity which also may include new contacts between Italian leaders and the North Vietnamese Communist.

Italian Foreign Minister Amintore Fanfani, president of the U.N. General Assembly and an intermediary in what may be continuing peace probe, conferred with Rusk for three hours Wednesday. U.S. and Italian informants would say that a meeting only that the Fanfani channel between Hanoi and Washington "is still open."

This prompted speculation that Fanfani has received a reply from North Vietnamese leaders to inquiries he made on Dec. 17. It clarified the terms of reported Communist terms for opening negotiations.

It was learned that State De-

partment officials believe at this stage there is no reason to think that the peace probe in which Fanfani and two Italian professors became engaged in November will lead directly to negotiations.

The North Vietnamese position is described as adamant in its insistence on U.S. acceptance of Communist terms.

It is that kind of discouragement about arriving at a compromise formula even for opening peace talks which has kept

much of the optimism out of the projected holiday pause in hostilities.

Authorities here agreed that some of the talk about peace comes from the real issues which are at the heart of U.S. policy in the war in Viet Nam. The United States is not interested in peace at any price, or the fight would have been over several years ago instead of going through escalation in the past 11 months.

What the United States is

seeking is an arrangement which will keep South Viet Nam out of Communist hands and preserve the opportunity for an independent— that is, non-Communist—government in Saigon.

It is for that reason that the United States cannot and will not agree to a basis of negotiation that allows the Communists to dictate the future organization of South Viet Nam.

To avoid rejecting the Italian

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S. D. Warren To Ask High Court Review

By ROBERT L. DODGE
Staff Reporter

WESTBROOK — S. D. Warren Co. will ask the United States Supreme Court to review a lower court decision requiring the big paper firm to bargain with four craft unions representing engineering division employees in the local mill.

Warren vice president and mill manager Rudolph T. Greep told employees in a letter Thursday the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit had refused the company's request to reconsider its decision of last month directing the firm to bargain with the unions.

Greep said, however, that in issuing its decision this week the court changed its earlier decision and made still clearer "the basis of its disagreement with an earlier decision of another appeals court."

THAT COURT, the Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, had ruled in effect that all employees of an integrated mill are entitled to vote in labor representation elections. S. D. Warren had cited that decision when it appealed to the First Circuit Court of Appeals to set aside a National Labor Relations Board order directing the company to bargain.

The First Circuit court took note of the decision of the Fourth Circuit court in its decision, but said in effect it did not apply in the S. D. Warren case. Instead, it relied on another decision which said that employees in specialized departments are entitled to be represented by their craft unions.

Greep continued in his letter, "... The only way to settle this kind of difference of

Pilgrims Stream Into Bethlehem To Celebrate Birth Of Christ

BETHLEHEM (AP)—Travelers from around the world streamed into the Holy Land Thursday to celebrate Christmas in Bethlehem, where Christ was born.

Canon boomed over the Holy City of Jerusalem, signaling the start of the Israel-Arab war, as they did last Christmas, but the start of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Christians converged on Bethlehem's fortress-like Church of the Nativity, built over the stable where, according to tradition, Jesus was born.

And Muslims flocked into nearby Jerusalem's great Dome of the Rock Mosque, from which the Prophet Mohammed is said to have ascended to heaven on horseback.

The narrow streets of Bethlehem were filled with tourists, pilgrims, souvenir vendors, and clergymen. Banners on lines from the U.S. and Fleet added a dash of blue to the multicolored throng.

Accents from far corners of the earth—Texas, Tokyo, London, Bonn and Manila—mingled with Arabic.

The coincidence of dates between Ramadan and Christmas this year was expected to push the annual influx into the Holy Land to record heights, for divided the holiday into a holy city to Muslims, Jews and Christians.

Fifteen thousand are expected to gather in Bethlehem, most of them hoping to peek into tiny

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FCC Refuses To Reconsider Its Order For Sweeping Probe Of AT&T Rates

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Federal Communications Commission refused Thursday to reconsider its order for a sweeping investigation of the entire rate structure of American Telephone & Telegraph Co.

It said it might even order rate adjustments as the investigation goes along, where it finds this necessary.

The commission said, "We start with no preconceived notions as to what the answers to these questions will be."

AT&T responded by promising to cooperate and pledged that "We will show that the business is and has been conducted in the best interests of the public."

The FCC ordered the investigation Oct. 27. Thursday's order denied an AT&T request for reconsideration and set forth some of the ground rules for the inquiry.

The commission said it has made only two findings so far: that the information now before it "gives rise to substantial questions which should be explored on a public record" and that several other questions "are so closely related with the rate problem that they should also be included in the investigation."

Referring to AT&T's contention that the investigation is an "arbitrary repudiation" of its traditional surveillance method of regulation, the commission

said, "We have not repudiated continuing surveillance."

"We intend to use the method again. Indeed, we believe the standards and criteria developed on the record here will enable us to employ continuing surveillance even more effectively in the future."

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Christians All Over Maine To Celebrate Nativity In Traditional Holy Day Rites

By JOSEPH E. COYNE
Church Editor

Christians throughout Maine will begin the observance of the Feast of the Nativity of Jesus Christ with traditional holy day services.

"For us, particularly united one who puts off today what her husband can do over the weekend."

The modern housewife is

In churches decked with wreaths and evergreen, Midnight Mass, services of carols and candlelighting and Festival of the Nativity of Jesus Christ will be celebrated.

The Most Rev. Daniel J. Fenney, D.D., Bishop of Portland, in his Christmas message to the state's 275,000 Roman Catholics, said:

"For us, particularly united one who puts off today what her husband can do over the weekend."

The modern housewife is

odist Church said the Christmas story of peace and good will seems incongruous in a world where there is war.

"In the sound of war, the loudness and the sudden sound again reminds us that the Christmas message of 'Peace, Good will among Men' is forced out of our minds and hearts," said the Rev. H. Travers Heath.

"So we who have heard this message and still believe in it are forced to hang our heads in shame," he said.

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News, Features On The Inside

The Weather

Cloudy, Light Rain Today; Partly Cloudy Saturday. Full Report Page 16.

THE U. S. MARINES roll out the "Jingle Bell Special" and bring Christmas cheer to South Vietnamese on land and water. Page 2.

A DIVINE MANDATE rested on the child born in Bethlehem and when the hour came he shouldered it. Page 13.

CHURCHES REEK to bring together two ancient foes, Germans and Poles. Page 12.

AMERICAN AND VIETNAMESE fighting men are silencing their guns and grounding their planes in a tentative cease-fire, hailed in smoke couriers as a possible step toward peace negotiations. Back Page.

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Member of the local fishing fleet moves past Portland Head Light on its way home for Christmas. Following with good wishes and hopes for Yuletide snacks is a flock of sea gulls.

Prayer For Today

"Glorious things are ever spoken of Thee, O God. Thou has showed us with the fruits of the harvest. Make us grateful for Thy supreme gift which we are prone to minimize. The gift Thy Son has made here in Bethlehem. Help us realize that the Word became incarnate, that an idea became flesh, that a Principle became a personality for us to know and love. Let all the world in every corner confess Thee as Lord and rejoice in Thy salvation through Jesus, our Lord. Amen."

—J. R. Brinkhoff, Atlanta, Ga. professor of homiletics, Emory University.

Movie of the Week!

"KATHY O" STARRING Dan Duryea Jan Sterling Patty McCormick 9:00 P.M. Channel 13

1 SHOPPING DAY LEFT

CHRISTMAS SEALS Fight TB and other RESPIRATORY DISEASES