

## Highway Official Explains Concern For Cities' Plight

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Highway administrators, together with community planners and state and local legislative bodies, must respond to the public concern about the "plight of our cities," a Michigan State Highway Department official said here recently.

Deputy State Highway Commissioner Howard E. Hill told a national Highway Research Board seminar on highway planning that highway transportation soundly built promotes the growth and development of our communities and nation.

Hill was one of 22 key highway officials who took part in the two-day meeting.

"STATE HIGHWAY departments must display an even greater sensitivity to the problems of the urban areas," Hill said. "To do so, they must participate more and more in local planning problems. For what is local today may very well have a wider import tomorrow."

"Planning in the Michigan State Highway Department is a continuous process."

Hill said then in recognition of the important role of planning, an Office of Planning was established in 1967 as one of the major units of the Highway Department and given a direct line of access to top management.

Additional personnel, qualified to do comprehensive planning, were added to the staff, he said.

HILL SAID this implemented State Highway Commissioner John C. Mackie's policy that no major highway construction would be undertaken in any municipality until an overall highway plan had been prepared.

"Through these steps, the Michigan State Highway Department sought to improve already close state-local planning relations, and to give a new emphasis and scope to the Department's interest in urban areas," Hill said.

## Vets Neglect GI Beneficiary Policy Listing

Thousands of veterans are neglecting to keep up to date their listing of a beneficiary for their GI insurance policy proceeds, John S. Gleason, Jr., administrator of veterans affairs, said today.

Because of this failure to keep the VA informed of changes necessary to reflect the births, marriages, deaths or divorces that occur over the years, their insurance proceeds may not be paid to the individual nor in the manner the veteran would wish, Gleason said.

The VA must pay the proceeds of the insurance policy to the beneficiary designated by the veteran himself.

CHANGES in family status cause designations made years ago to be out of harmony with the veteran's present wishes.

But, Gleason pointed out, the VA has no alternative but to pay the insurance proceeds to the beneficiary of record in the VA files.

He said a recent sampling in which the VA asked a group of veterans if they wished to change beneficiary or payment method brought six out of ten affirmative replies from those returning the questionnaire.

He strongly urged all veterans holding GI policies to make certain that up-to-date beneficiary designations and payment methods are on file with the VA.

Necessary forms for those changes may be obtained from any VA office in person or by mail or may be received by writing directly to the VA insurance office where the veteran's insurance policy records are kept.

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Mr. and Mrs. Henry Moses' gift to the City and Country School of Bloomfield Hills has been recognized by a Who's Who in America Citation for Individual Educational Philanthropy.

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The language of tones belongs equally to all mankind, and melody is the absolute language in which the musician speaks to every heart.

—Richard Wagner

## State Needs Seven Additional Tourist Centers

The House Tourist Industry Committee has recommended that the State Highway Department be authorized to build seven additional Tourist Information Centers at major gateways to Michigan.

Committee Chairman Walter G. Nakkula (R-Gladwin) said the recommendation was part of a 30-point program designed to attract more tourists to the state.

Nakkula's committee, which was created by the State House of Representatives two years ago, held a series of public hearings throughout the state last year. It also held joint meetings with a similar Senate tourist committee

to coordinate work of the two groups.

Nakkula said he had the opportunity of working in one of the Highway Department's Mobile Travel Information units last summer when it was stationed in Arenac County.

He said this gave him an opportunity to assist and interview travelers seeking information and "the comments of those stopping at the mobile unit was an indication that tourist information stations on our highways are a basic travel need."

The House committee also recommended that the State Highway Department print an additional

200,000 official state highway maps for free distribution each year. This would be in addition to 600,000 now distributed by the highway department.

At the same time, the committee recommended the Highway Department's maintenance of roadside parks and picnic tables "and recommends their continuance."

In 1960, employment costs per man-hour in the American steel industry averaged \$3.82, as compared with \$1.40 in Luxembourg, \$1.21 in West Germany, \$1.09 in the United Kingdom, and only 56 cents in Japan.

## State Police Slate Annual Open House

The State Police will again observe Michigan Week by holding open house on "Hospitality Day" Tuesday, May 22, at all posts, according to Sgt. Mike Ahlgren, commanding officer of the Pontiac post.

Visiting hours at the Pontiac post will be from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. A special welcome is extended to the public to examine the equipment and facilities and find out how the department operates.

## The Birmingham Eccentric

Thursday, May 10, 1962

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