

Ambulances Should Obey Traffic Rules

BECAUSE an underaged ambulance driver exercised right of way privileges and crashed a red light Thursday, one person is dead and another critically injured.

A screaming siren and blinking emergency light did not prevent tragedy. Skimming the edge of public indignation over the accident today was a frustrating question: Why do such things happen?

The answers are simple enough to be seen, smelled and tasted. They happen because the law and custom permit:

1—Too much reliance on the part of ambulance drivers on their sirens, and 2—Complete freedom from normal traffic regulations.

An ambulance—siren wide open, weaving through traffic, ignoring stop lights—may be high drama on television and movie screens. But the same conditions can, and sometimes do, spell stark tragedy in actual practice.

It is too late to change the circumstances that caused the death of Mrs. Elma Karanovich and left her husband severely injured. But it is not too late to prevent others from suffering the same fate. A law should be drafted which would delay to recruit ambulances to obey all traffic regulations—exactly the same as other drivers.

Such a law has been recommended by City Councilman Herbert H. Baxter. The proposal deserves wide community support.

THERE is already a law on the books requiring operators of public carriers to be at least 21 years of age. This law was violated Thursday. The driver of the ambulance involved in the fatal accident was 19. His penalty: A fine of \$10 and court costs. Ignorance of this law on the part of ambulance operators is no excuse; indifference to the law is reprehensible; violation of the law is deserving of stiff punishment. A maximum penalty possible is a \$500 fine or six months on the roads.

The point is that the law is there. It merely needs to be enforced. The law that isn't there—yet—is the one requiring ambulances to obey traffic regulations when on a mission of mercy.

There is, already available, proof of the effectiveness of such a system.

A pilot study has been undertaken by Brookline's 3,522-bed Kings County Medical Center for the express purpose of determining if the operation of ambulances under normal traffic regulations—without even a siren—would reduce the number of accidents. KCMC is a member institution of the Dept. of Hospitals of the City of New York. The results of the study are reported in the April issue of HOSPITALS, official journal of the American Hospital Association.

Breaking Down Illogical Barriers

CHARLOTTE'S City Council, faced with a tough nut, cracked it without further hesitation. It formally designated the City-County Planning Commission as the zoning agency for Charlotte.

Furthermore, the commission was instructed to "proceed with a complete revision of the city zoning map at the earliest possible moment."

The joint planning body had already been given the job of drafting zoning recommendations for the 100-square-mile perimeter area. But until this week, Council members had been reluctant to clear up some lingering, but heavily debated, issues inside city limits. Questions were raised about an old zoning commission and whether it had ever been officially disbanded.

In settling the matter, councilmen wisely recognized that zoning for a large metropolitan area is a job for one agency—just as planning is a single-agency chore. Problems of metropolitan growth do not begin and end at city limits. Boundaries long ago ceased to be barriers in such matters.

Charlotte and Mecklenburg County will continue to grow. It is the duty of the city and county to take steps jointly to guide the movement rather

than to let it run wild or handle the problems piecemeal.

Obviously, the greatest opportunities for planning and zoning lie in the perimeter—where most of the development is still in the future.

The worst problems—and the most expensive ones—are inside city limits where urban land-use matters are already well-rooted. Charlotteans willing to look and able to see will not notice colored glasses of civic pride with their them—poor planning or no planning at all, downtown districts sprawling at the traffic congestion, residents ghetto-ringed by blight, a general lack of sufficient setback lines to permit the widening of streets, zoning ordinances that are far behind the times. As is often the case, overall growth has been accompanied by a certain amount of internal decay.

Revision of the city's zoning map will take many months. It is, after all, an undertaking of major proportions. The city-county agency is already hard at work on perimeter zoning. Charlotteans must be patient. But they can rest assured that important progress is in the making—progress which will protect the future of metropolitan Charlotte.

A small girl was studying a fashion magazine. "Mummy," she said seriously, "why do they make pictures of ladies who are not quite ready?"—MATROON (ILL.) JOURNAL-GAZETTE.

"There," said the newlywed husband pointing to Niagara Falls. "I told you that if you married me I'd show you the world's biggest cataract. 'Catarae' screamed the chorus girls. 'I thought you said 'Cadillac'."—LAMAR (MO.) DEMOCRAT.

How does the new program of traffic law observance affect the time element in answering ambulance calls? What effect did it have on patient care? What other results have been observed?

We have had no complaints of any delay in responding to ambulance calls. We have observed any untoward effects on our patients. The number of injuries to our employees was reduced from one per five accidents to about one per seven accidents. . . . There has been no demonstrable need at any time for our ambulances to travel at a high rate of speed. The lives of our patients, employees and the general public have been placed in less jeopardy, and there has been a reduction in compensation costs and the costs of repairing ambulances damaged in accidents.

Charlotte can profit from Brooklyn's experience. The changeover should be ordered as soon as possible. Most Charlotte ambulances, including the ones that have been operated at a reasonable speed. Conscientious attempts have been made to reduce the danger of accidents. But one more step should be taken. Ambulances should be compelled to observe normal traffic regulations whether they use sirens or not. There is no need to run the risk of repeating Thursday's tragedy.

There was a determined effort to suppress the news in Washington which was street-courtesyed in Moscow. Secretary of Defense Wilson, particularly, fought long and hard against the silence which has been done long before and Talbot's arguments were the day.

Therefore Congress has just been asked to authorize expenditure of \$36,000,000 extra, to step up production of our B-52 heavy bomber. Production of our F-100 fighters is probably to be increased too. These moves are the direct result of the failure of censorship. It took just about six weeks, and a barrage of public criticism, to force the obviously necessary action. Even now, what is being done looks too little and too late. But what would have happened if the censorship had worked?

We read where two or three state agencies need more cash. The sad story almost brought tears to our eyes until the editor suddenly realized that he also could use a little more cash.—DAMLONGBA (GA.) NEGOT.

It is now well known that the feud between the two gentlemen from California, Sen. Knowland and Vice President Nixon, is one of the most virulent in the capital. However, it is not generally known that Nixon has been making it clear with Capitol Hill colleagues that as far as Eisenhower is concerned, he is winning the feud.

At a recent off-the-record luncheon with other members of Congress, the vice president not only notified his fellow Republicans in California but most of the spokesmen for Ike, and gave advice that Knowland would have to pipe down on his criticism.

He stated that whether Ike ran again would depend not only on his desire to

lead a more tranquil home life but on sniping at him.

Criticism Hurts "The president wonders when his own party leaders keep opposing his policies in international affairs," said Nixon, obviously referring to his colleague from California, "whether he is not in an anomalous position, and whether he is not divorced from at least an important sector of his party. In any event, he feels a kind of criticism very deeply—it hurts."

A congressman wanted to know whether it also hurt the president to hear Secretary Acheson's outburst with one of his constituents against Ike.

"Anything McCarthy says doesn't bother me," he said. "I don't care what he notices it at all," replied Nixon. "But with a top man like Knowland—that's different."

NIXON has pretty well won Eisenhower over to his side in the Knowland controversy. Ike has even agreed to build him up as possible successor.

Rayburn On Highways You can bet it down that Congress will pass some kind of a superhighway bill during this session. It talks with GOP congressional leaders. President Eisenhower has put the highway program right at the top of his list of "must" bills.

The other day Ike received some news that he was expected to be surprised if he were invited to give the invocation at the dedication of the new Interstate 40.

At a closed-door huddle with Democratic members of the House Public Works Committee, Rayburn was plainly annoyed by the President's delay in reporting a highway bill.

"If the House doesn't enact a bill, we will be playing into the hands of the Republicans," warned the Texas. "They will be in a position to say that we Democrats used our majority in the House to prevent the highway program from being enacted. I know you fellows have a lot of things to do, but please make that the first order of business. Time's running out."

Mr. Dulles can relax. Mr. Dulles can now shed at least two of his worries. He can put aside the matter of the blankets which he has at the top level available. One of his fears has been that the people of the United States would expect too much of the meeting at the summit. Another of his worries has been that the President would be asked to make too many big decisions at the summit. The Soviet government may have grandiose projects to offer at the summit. But the fact of the matter is that the Soviet government has announced its real business below and apart from the top level conferences. We may soon be worrying about something else. He may soon be asking ourselves whether we know all that we need to know about the Soviet projects to offer at the summit.

With the international situation the way it is, I wonder if we're wise to ask them to give up their little pleasures . . . ?

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People's Platform

Billy Graham: Another View

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

A NEWS item dated June 4 quotes the Roman Catholic weekly 'America' as praising the Protestant evangelism of Billy Graham, extolling his qualifications as a preacher and concluding that a Catholic scholar could actually sit down and discuss theology with him."

This is indeed a peculiar concept of Jesus considering that the Roman Catholic church claims to be "the only true church" and exclusive custodian of the faith of salvation, that doctrines are decidedly contrary to the espousals of Billy Graham.

The Jesuit publishers of these compliments to Graham, and which priestly order is generally alluded to as "the brain trust of Catholicism" are either not so brainy or else indulging in an attempt at public brain-washing.

Protestant and Catholic theologians practice not only in degree but in kind, irreconcilable in doctrines and dogmas and widely divergent in fundamentals such as Biblical science and authority from which both theologians derive.

It is therefore absurd to assume that a Catholic scholar could discuss theology with Billy Graham, who is certainly not a theologian, and whose concepts and ideas of Christian supernaturalism are completely at variance with those of Catholicism.

The impossibility of an intelligent and effective discussion of theology between Graham and a Catholic scholar is made even more emphatic by the fact that there is little theological agreement between Graham and numerous sects of Protestantism.

The Church of Christ, among others, has publicly denounced Graham as propagating "unscriptural and anti-spiritual doctrines and practices" designed "to deceive people into unbelief and disobedience." Only the most naive could expect that Catholic scholar in discussion theology with Billy Graham even with the remotest hope of harmonious conclusions.

—JOHN F. MORRISON JR.

Court Has Usurped Powers Of Congress

Asheville

Editors, The News:

THAT you are entitled to your opinion goes without saying—that others are entitled to their opinions is likewise true. You stand on the integration of the races does not, we believe, represent the majority of people here in North Carolina, nor will it ever, on this issue be representative of the majority of the people in this state.

Now, the Supreme Court in its "decision" usurped the powers of Congress. The Constitution gives only to Congress the power to legislate—the Supreme Court in the final analysis can't, and will not prevail over the thoughts of the people. To be blunt, the Supreme Court can stew in hell as far as the people are concerned, and no cooling water will be cast over them, unless it is in such quantity, that in quenching the flame it drops those who stew.

By no stretch of the imagination is the colored person the equal of the white, not that they

Don't Poke Humor At Crockett Tale

Lawrenceburg, Tenn.

Editors, The News:

A FRIEND has sent me a copy of the May 23, 1955, issue of The Charlotte News, containing a reprint of an article entitled "Daisy Crockett & The Hero, Dec. 1941" from the Greensboro Daily News. The article is well-written, but, as the legal profession would say, upon an ex parte statement of negative proof, it gives the conclusions "that Mr. Crockett was a hero" and that "Daisy Crockett is obviously a figment of the imagination."

If that article were reprinted in local newspapers, it would encourage much more wrath towards The Greensboro Daily News and The

People's Platform

Charlotte News than when ex-President Harry Truman, speaking at Cosby, Tenn., at the ramp festival on April 24, 1955, remarked that Crockett was one of Tennessee's greatest men, and a monument ought to be erected to him in which Gov. Frank G. Clement of Tennessee replied that he would take the matter up with the state legislature, as a result of which the Lawrence Countians' civic wrath came down like a rock dropped from the top of the old Crockett monument on the Lawrenceburg public square.

To Lawrence Countians, David Crockett is no "figment of the imagination" but was a very much alive human being; this famous Tennessee, born on Aug. 17, 1786, in Greene County, was one of the first justices of the county in the State of Franklin, and now a county of Tennessee—we didn't change the state lines as was done in the case of putting the place of Andrew Jackson's birth in North Carolina—was prominent in the organization of this county, was one of the first justices of the county, was on the commission to select the site of the county seat, became a colonel of the state militia in this county, and was its first representative in the state legislature—the name of David Crockett frequently appears in the early public records of the county, and in its public records and in the oldest authentic signature of David Crockett; his name appears on the cornerstone of the present courthouse in Lawrenceburg, and on the public square there proudly stands a bronze life-size statue of Col. David Crockett dedicated on Sept. 14, 1922.

Yes, we are proud of David Crockett, just as it appears that practically all the people of our county are.

Why Not Close All Beer Joints?

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

I HAVE BEEN reading about the sale of beer and selling it to children. What I can't understand is why the people will let it be sold. And when they look at the statistics they get drunk, why not close all beer joints and liquor stores and have a decent place to live and raise our boys and girls?

You can't expect a boy and girl not to drink when their parents drink and serve it in their homes and I am just telling the true facts and God knows who is guilty. There doesn't seem to be a doubt but what the seller of this rotten stuff is just as guilty selling it as a buyer is and it is just as big a sin in the sight of God to sell it on Monday as on Sunday. I cannot understand why anyone could enjoy making money on stuff that was wrecking more homes and causing more deaths than anything on earth and some day someone will pay for all the heartaches and tears his liquor and beer causes.

—MRS. MAYME BARGER

Man Bites Lioness

Fishers

Editors, The News:

THE Uganda Game and Fishers' Department report tells this story of an encounter between a game guard and a lioness. The guard, Gabrielle Ogun, who worked on a farm at Ekumba, was striking a bush-buck when he found that he in turn was being stalked by a lioness. He fired and wounded the animal, and having only two rounds left returned to the farm office to collect more ammunition. The farm manager, Mr. Jones, went with him to finish off the wounded beast. They followed her for three hours through the bush, and when they came upon her, she immediately charged, knocked Gabrielle down, and embedded her teeth in his thigh. "Not to be outdone, Gabrielle, an old man, in turn embedded his few remaining teeth in the lioness' side." The game ranger, who later examined the animal's skin, "was surprised at the damage inflicted by Gabrielle's teeth."—The Manchester Guardian.

Real Russian Moves Aimed Below Summit

New York

Editors, The News:

THE Soviet invitation has, we may suppose, come sooner than Dr. Adenauer expected or would have wished. Presumably he would have preferred it if Moscow had waited until say the autumn, that is until after the first cadres of the German army are in being.

Nevertheless, the Bonn government has accepted and has been counting upon diplomatic recognition and an exchange of ambassadors. There is some reason to think that there has already been unofficial soundings taken both ways about the acceptability of certain persons to lead the missions.

There is little doubt, therefore, that Dr. Adenauer will accept in principle the Soviet proposal for "normalize" diplomatic relations, even though he may not wish to go himself to Moscow in, as the Soviet note says, "the near future."

THE TIMING

The timing of the Soviet invitation shows light. I think on how the Soviet rulers regard the forthcoming meeting at the summit, and the various four power and other conferences which are supposed to follow it. Quite evidently they do not believe that the three or four-day meeting at Geneva is to be, or that it could be anything more than a summit conference by a few big powers who are supposed to follow it. Quite evidently they do not believe that the three or four-day meeting at Geneva is to be, or that it could be anything more than a summit conference by a few big powers who are supposed to follow it. Quite evidently they do not believe that the three or four-day meeting at Geneva is to be, or that it could be anything more than a summit conference by a few big powers who are supposed to follow it.

NO ULTIMATUM

This does not mean, so I would guess, that the Kremlin intends to make an offer on the basis of "take it or leave it"—let us say, "if you don't accept the offer from NATO, withdrawal of the Red Army for the withdrawal of the American forces from Europe."

The tone and substance of the Soviet note looks, it seems to me, to a long courtship of the Germans rather than to some sudden and spectacular coup of the men who are responsible for this note remain in control of Soviet policy, we must expect the Soviets to follow a gradual policy on rearmament, on frontiers, on liquidation of the East German government, withdrawal of troops, and alliances.

Thus the Soviet note is not an invitation to Dr. Adenauer to come to Moscow and agree on the Soviet side, it is an invitation to establish diplomatic relations, to lift somewhat the Iron Curtain, to ease the trade, leaving the hard questions of a settlement to be dealt with later on when the relations between Moscow and Moscow have become better.

Mr. Dulles can relax. Mr. Dulles can now shed at least two of his worries. He can put aside the matter of the blankets which he has at the top level available. One of his fears has been that the people of the United States would expect too much of the meeting at the summit. Another of his worries has been that the President would be asked to make too many big decisions at the summit. The Soviet government may have grandiose projects to offer at the summit. But the fact of the matter is that the Soviet government has announced its real business below and apart from the top level conferences. We may soon be worrying about something else. He may soon be asking ourselves whether we know all that we need to know about the Soviet projects to offer at the summit.

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100, The Register and Tribune Syndicate. OVERLAND

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