

A View From The Governor's Office

By Gov. Raymond P. Shafer

The Labor Day holiday weekend is a time of picnics and family reunions, of quick vacation trips and the last dip in the swimming pool for the summer.

With Labor Day this weekend, I shudder at the thought of the carnage that is predicted for our highways. The careless, the drinking, the inattentive drivers will be on the roads. With them will ride the spectres of death and crippling injury.

Each year, holidays such as Labor Day are marred by death toll counts from accidents which, for the most part, need not have happened.

Government in Pennsylvania can apply much needed rules and regulations to slow down the careless or dangerous driver. Excellent legislation, such as mandatory chemical breath tests for all motorists arrested on charges of drunken driving, has been signed into law. Unfortunately, this does not become effective until September 29, which is not

in time to have a positive effect on Labor Day conditions.

Other outstanding legislation is pending, such as the Administration's proposal to make driver training mandatory for all persons under 20 years of age by June 1, 1969.

However, the fact remains that the Labor Day weekend is approaching without these and other legal safeguards for motorists. The answer would then seem to be to appeal directly to each driver, to concentrate as never before on his individual responsibility to travel safely.

This weekend all of us must aid the efforts of the Pennsylvania AAA Federation and its motor clubs to "Bring 'em Back Alive!" (BEBA) BEBA is a positive action program designed to accomplish exactly what the name implies.

The full cooperation and administrative resources of the Commonwealth's key agencies

have been pledged to the project.

Throughout the holiday period, highway conditions, traffic flow patterns, State Police reports, Turnpike usage, recreational facility capacities, weather reports, and all other data affecting motorists' travel and holiday plans will be given to AAA centers throughout the Commonwealth. This information will be summarized at AAA's State headquarters every two hours and reported from Harrisburg throughout the State through Pennsylvania's news media.

"Bring 'em Back Alive!" broadcast information will allow each motorist the opportunity to know what's going on around him within a two-hour driving range. All news will be directed toward eliminating one of the main causes of accidents: driver frustration which leads to care less driving.

Your State Government initiates laws which protect the lives of motorists, passengers, and pedestrians; but the general motorist must bear the responsibility for alert safe driving.

"Bring 'em Back Alive!" should prove to be a valuable aid to each driver in carrying out such an obligation during this weekend. Each driver must accept this responsibility so Pennsylvania can become the safest State in the Country.

Above all else, we must do everything we can to make this Labor Day weekend ultra-safe. We must watch the other driver — behind, beside, and approaching. We must put personal safety and the interests of our loved ones above all else.

We must, in fact, Bring 'em Back Alive.

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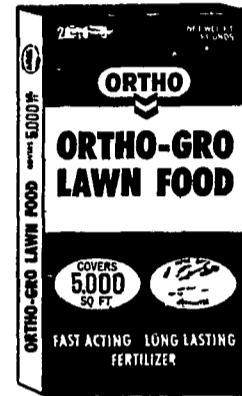
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