

A View From The Governor's Office

By Gov. Raymond P. Shafer

For the second time in two years, this Administration has submitted a series of bills to the General Assembly aimed at further improvement in highway safety throughout the Commonwealth.

Despite the fact that last year

I signed into law landmark legislation designed to cut the death toll on Pennsylvania highways — including mandatory breath tests for suspected drunken drivers — our high-

way accident rate is still too high.

In 1968, for example, 2,400 persons were killed in highway accidents throughout the State, and another 123,000 were injured in a total of 250,000 reported accidents. As a result of continuing studies by my Highway Safety Task Force, this week a package of eleven bills to cut that carnage were introduced in the House with bipartisan support.

Some of these bills will permit changes in procedures, or authorize collection of vital operational data for future analysis. It is important to realize that implementation of this proposed legislation will provide us with a base upon which we can soon develop a more effective traffic safety program using readily available management techniques.

Included, too, is a bill establishing a single maximum speed of 55 miles per hour on open highways and 35 miles per hour in business and residential districts, yet give the Secretary of Highways and local traffic officials the authority to make changes based on engineering studies of specific situations.

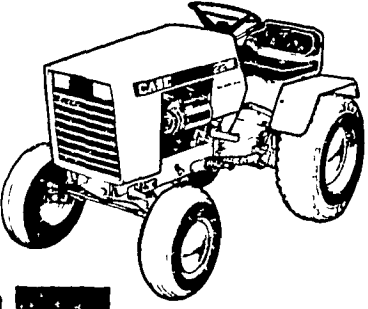
Previously, such changes were made by legislative action — and the result, especially in smaller communities, was that the motorist often has been directed to stay within 40, 35 or 25 miles an hour on different portions of the same road.

In addition, this bill also would impose heavier fines for speeding violations based on a graduated schedule for the more flagrant high-speed violators instead of imposing the ridiculously low \$10 fine now in effect.

Other bills in the package would: i.e., air reconnaissance against reckless drivers and a new speed timing device which will new methods of speed law enforcement.

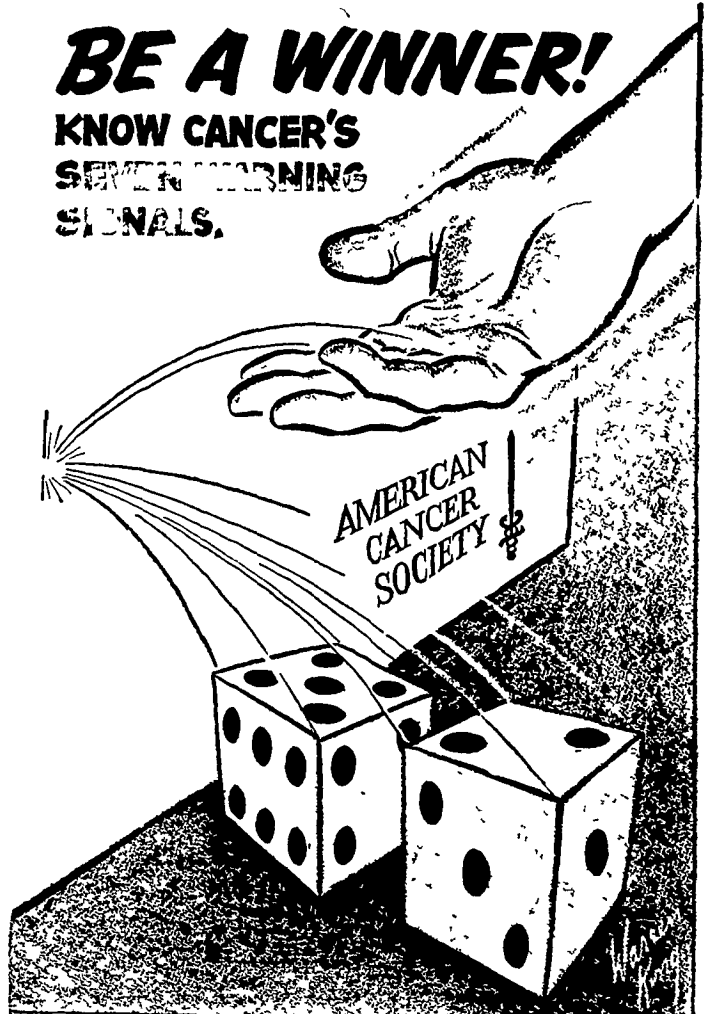
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