

Check Your Tires Once a Month

"Two of the most important rules in tire safety and mileage are maintaining the proper air pressure and regularly examining for excessive or irregular tread wear," says Ross R. Ormsby, Chair-

man of the Tire Industry Safety Council.

Checking a tire's air pressure is an easy task that any motorist can handle. The Council recommends the pressure be checked at least once

a month with a personal hand gauge. Government surveys have found that air tower gauges are often inaccurate. Check the pressure when the tires are cool, before starting out on the road. Your car owner's manual will tell what the correct pressure should be, and then if necessary add the needed amount.

Then take a Lincoln penny and insert it upside down into the tread groove. If the top of Lincoln's head is visible in two or more adjacent grooves, the tire needs replacement. Safety experts consider a tire as "bald" when the tread depth is worn to 1/16th of an inch or less. After this point, the tires are 44 times more likely to suffer disablement than new tires.

Removing nails, small stones or bits of glass embodied in the tread will help prevent costly tire damage which can lead to failure. This preventive maintenance is normally done at the service station when the tires are rotated (every 5,000 miles), the oil changed or the car lubricated. But there is no substitute for periodic personal inspection for greater assurance.

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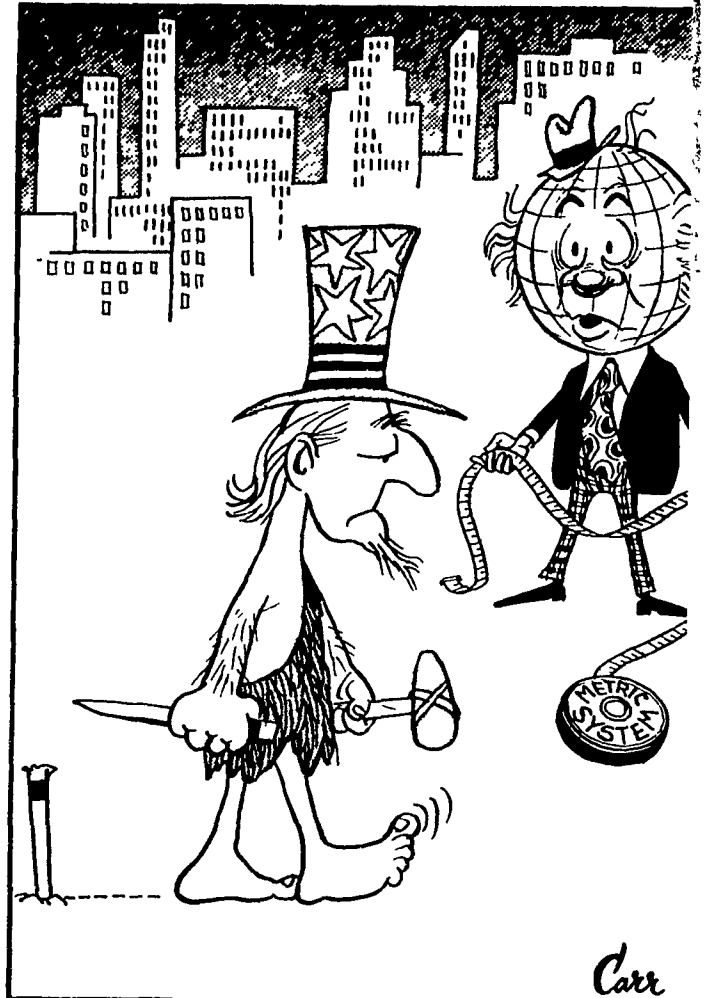
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LET'S GO METRIC

In August of last year, the Senate passed legislation moving for U.S. adoption of the international metric system as our primary system and comparable action anticipated in the House. From a number of viewpoints this is a most responsible decision.

In the first place, we are now the only industrial nation on earth not on or moving to the metric system. It is estimated that with metric-sized products we'll open up as much as \$10-billion additional foreign trade and we know with our trade imbalance we can use it. Continuing to use our customary system places us in a technological trap of our own making and this is in a world where all are moving to a single technology. Though the move will be expensive, evidence is sufficient that failure to change will be more costly in the long run.

Domestically a shift to metrics will create some confusion for both the public and business, but in the long run we'll probably learn it better than our present system. After all, how much sense is there to a system that asks you to relate 12 inches to a foot, three feet to a yard, 36 inches to a yard, 1,760 yards to the mile or 5,280 feet to the mile? With metrics we measure simply—for 1 meter is divided into decimeters (1/10th), centimeters (1/100th), millimeters (1/1000th)—all you do is add a decimal point! The system is so much more logical than our own.

The changeover will also encourage us to update standards and specifications for products, offering unprecedented opportunity to improve them and cut the unnecessary variety which increases cost.

Quick action on this vital legislation would be a boon to America's economic future.

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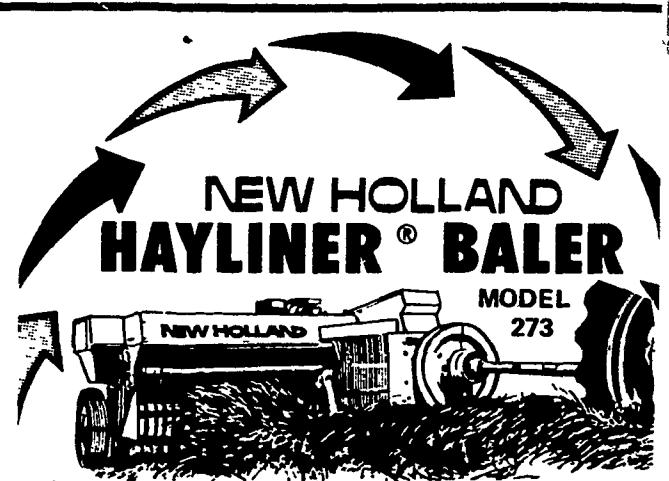
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