

**Thirty Second
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1954

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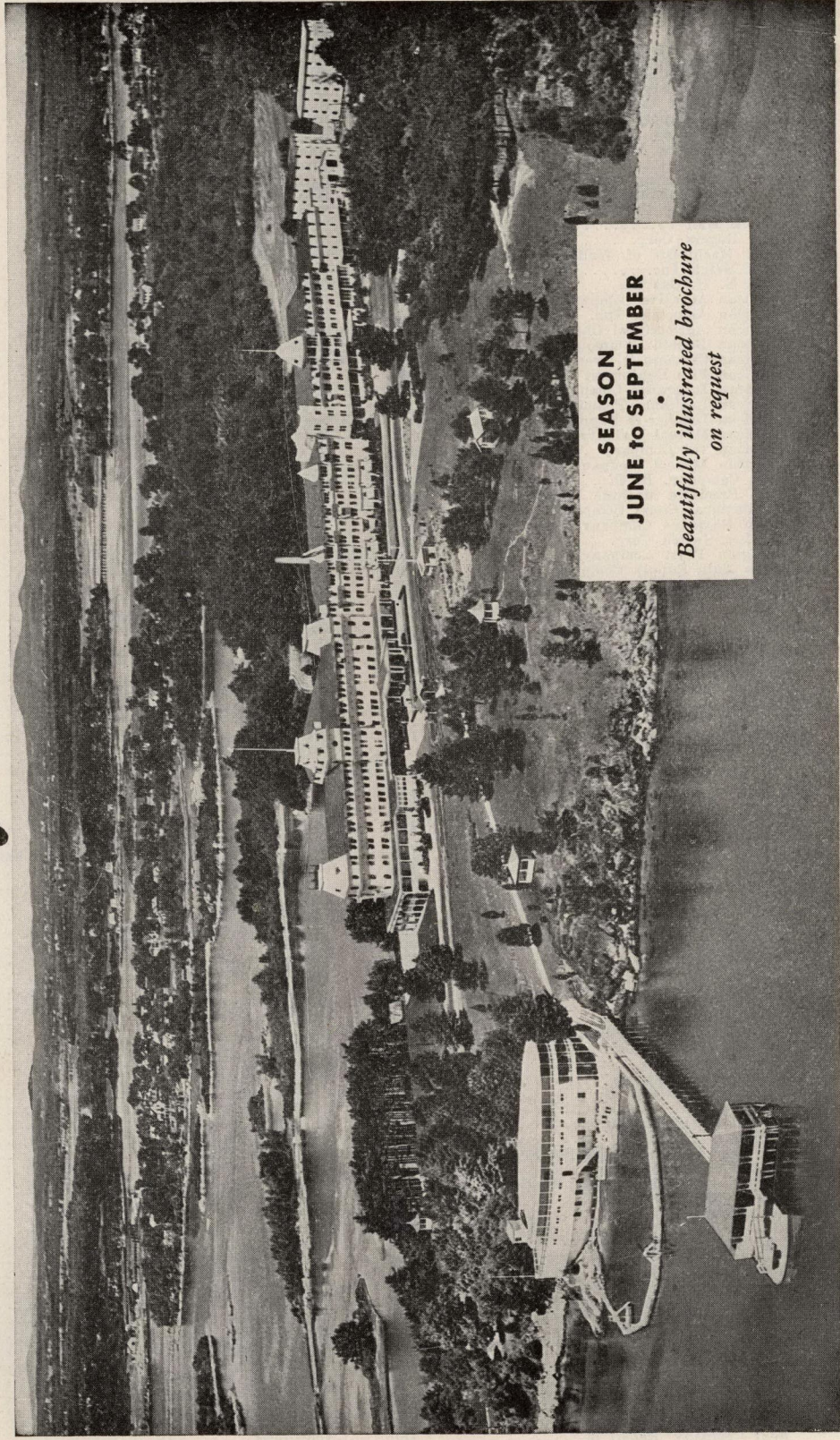
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1954 PROGRAM

MONDAY, JUNE 21, 3:30 P.M.

OPENING of the Conference by:

President Henri E. Fortier
Hotel Ballroom

INVOCATION: Rev. John P. Fitzsimmons,
Belmont, Mass., Chaplain.

ADDRESSES OF WELCOME:

Mayor Theodore R. Butler, Ports-
mouth, N. H.

City Manager Robert C. Violette.

Chief Ralph G. Seavey, Rochester,
N. H., President, New Hampshire
Fire Chiefs Club.

GREETING:

Chief Henry G. Thomas, Hartford,
Connecticut, President, International
Association of Fire Chiefs.

INTRODUCTION:

Mr. John D. Gerletti, General Manager,
International Association of Fire
Chiefs.

RESPONSE TO ADDRESSES OF WELCOME:

Chief John F. Adams, Milford, Massa-
chusetts.

MEMORIAL EXERCISES

Selection: The Chapel Quartette.

Roll Call of Deceased Members.

Taps.

Selection: The Chapel Quartette.

MEMORIAL ADDRESS:

Rev. William W. Lewis, Minister of
The Unitarian-Universalist Church
and Fire Department Chaplain of
Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

Selection: The Chapel Quartette.

BENEDICTION:

Rev. Michael F. Collins, Somerville,
Massachusetts, Chaplain.

ANNUAL MEETING

Members, New England Division,
International Association of Fire Chiefs

MONDAY EVENING, 8:00 P.M.

Get-together. Showing of 1953
Conference Movies.

Dancing in the Ballroom.

TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 9:30 A.M.

ADDRESS: "Some Facts About LP Gas."

Edward M. Johnson, Division Service
Manager, Suburban U.D.I. Company,
Portland, Maine.

ADDRESS: "Life and Fire Safety in Con-
valescent Homes."

Howard S. Russell, Massachusetts State
Representative, Member of Recess
Commission on Fire Safety in Nursing
Homes, Hospitals and Institutions.

ADDRESS: "Industrial Fire Hazards."

Edward C. Drake, Assistant Personnel
Director, Factory Mutual Engineering
Division, Boston, Massachusetts.

ADDRESS: "Occupational Disability."

Carl W. Irwin, M.D., Bangor, Maine.

TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 2:30 P.M.

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Moderator, Roi B. Woolley

Assistant Editorial Director Fire Engi-
neering, Technical Consultant New Eng-
land Association of Fire Chiefs.

1954 PROGRAM (Continued)

TOPICS: Selected.

PARTICIPANTS:

Chief Clinton H. Murray, Cape Elizabeth, Maine.

Chief Anthony J. Molloy, Nashua, New Hampshire.

Chief Richard C. Holmes, Windsor, Vermont.

Chief John E. Corcoran, Newton, Massachusetts.

Chief Lewis A. Marshall, Providence, Rhode Island.

Chief Stuart M. Potter, Greenwich, Connecticut.

ADDRESS: "Arson."

Captain Daniel A. Murphy, Massachusetts Department of Public Safety.

ADDRESS: "Civil Defense."

Kyle Laughlin, Director Fire Services Division, Federal Civil Defense Administration, Washington, D. C.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23, 9:30 A.M.
ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION**

Moderator, Roi B. Woolley

Assistant Editorial Director Fire Engineering, Technical Consultant New England Association of Fire Chiefs.

TOPIC: Selected.

PARTICIPANTS:

Chief Richard J. Frates, Bath, Maine.

Chief Ralph G. Seavey, Rochester, New Hampshire.

Chief John E. Keefe, Bellows Falls, Vermont.

Chief Arthur L. Flynn, Salem, Massachusetts.

Chief Otto J. Alletag, Warren, Rhode Island.

Chief Francis J. Dagon, East Hartford, Connecticut.

Chief Walter R. Messer, Keene, N. H.

ADDRESS: "The Role of the Telephone in Fire Reporting."

Edward R. Chasson, Supervisor, Sales Promotion and Training, New England Telephone and Telegraph Company.

**WEDNESDAY, 2:00 P.M.
at the Exhibition Hall**

"Exhibitors' Opportunity to Demonstrate Their Products"

Awarding of Exhibitors' Prizes

6:15 to 7:00 P.M. Cocktail Party.
Main Ballroom.

ANNUAL BANQUET — 7:00 P.M.

President Henri E. Fortier, *Presiding*
His Excellency Governor Hugh Gregg,
New Hampshire.

Guest Speaker: Hon. William E. Powers,
Attorney General, State of Rhode Island.

Dancing — Main Ballroom

THURSDAY, 10:00 A.M.

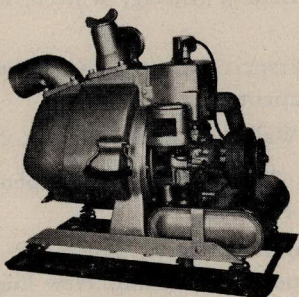
Reports of Officers and Committees.

Unfinished Business.

Election of Officers.

Selection of Place of Next Annual Conference.

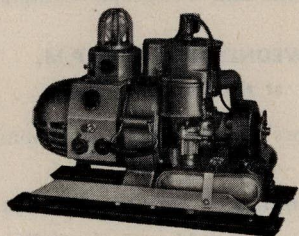
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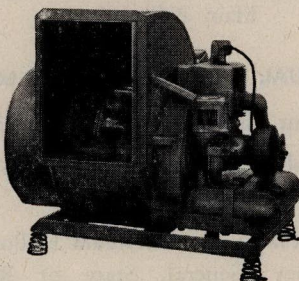
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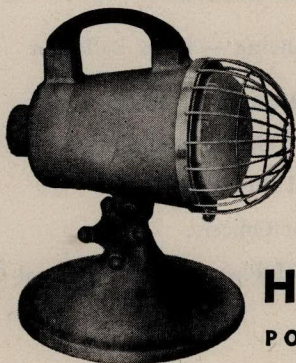
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NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS

Thirty-Second Annual Report
of the
New England Association
of
Fire Chiefs



Annual Conference
June 21, 22, 23, 24, 1954

THE WENTWORTH BY-THE-SEA
PORTSMOUTH, N. H.

Places and Dates of Past Conventions

- No. 1 BRIDGEPORT, Conn., June 20-21-22, 1923
PRES. CHIEF JOHN P. DOYLE, Wellesley, Mass.
- No. 2 BOSTON, Mass., June 24-25-26, 1924
PRES. JOHN C. MORAN, Hartford, Conn.
- No. 3 PITTSFIELD, Mass., June 23-24-25, 1925
PRES. PATRICK J. HURLEY, Holyoke, Mass.
- No. 4 MANCHESTER, N. H., June 22-23-24, 1926
PRES. DANIEL E. JOHNSON, Bridgeport, Conn.
- No. 5 PORTLAND, Maine, June 21-22-23, 1927
PRES. CHARLES H. FRENCH, Manchester, N. H.
- No. 6 BURLINGTON, Vermont, June 26-27-28-29, 1928
PRES. WILLIAM C. SHEPARD, Pittsfield, Mass.
- No. 7 NEW HAVEN, Conn., June 25-26-27, 1929
PRES. OLIVER T. SANBORN, Portland, Maine
- No. 8 RUTLAND, Vermont, June 24-25-26-27, 1930
PRES. LAWRENCE E. REIF, New Haven, Conn.
- No. 9 BOSTON, Mass., June 23-24-25-26, 1931
PRES. SELDEN R. ALLEN, Brookline, Mass.
- No. 10 NEWPORT, R. I., June 21-22-23-24, 1932
PRES. JOSEPH LAWTON, Newport, R. I.
- No. 11 LEWISTON, Maine, June 20-21-22, 1933
PRES. ALFRED H. KOLTONSKI, Rutland, Vt.
- No. 12 BURLINGTON, Vermont, June 26-27-28-29, 1934
PRES. DANIEL B. TIERNEY, Arlington, Mass.
- No. 13 NEW BEDFORD, Mass., June 25-26-27, 1935
PRES. JOHN S. PACHL, New Haven, Conn.
- No. 14 HARTFORD, Conn., June 23-24-25, 1936
PRES. DAVID H. DECOURCY, Winchester, Mass.
- No. 15 THE BALSAMS, Dixville Notch, N. H., June 22-23-24, 1937
PRES. CARL D. STOCKWELL, Burlington, Vt.
- No. 16 BURLINGTON, Vt., June 21-22-23, 1938
PRES. JOSEPH W. RANDETTE, Richmond, Me.

Places and Dates of Past Conventions

(Continued)

- No. 17 PROVIDENCE, R. I., June 20-21-22, 1939
PRES. THOMAS F. BURNS, Bridgeport, Conn.
- No. 18 THE BALSAMS, Dixville Notch, N. H., June 25-26-27, 1940
PRES. SAMUEL J. POPE, Boston, Mass.
- No. 19 BOSTON, Mass., Aug. 18-23, 1941
PRES. THOMAS H. COTTER, Providence, R. I.
- No. 20 Cancelled because of the War
PRES. WILLIAM C. MAHONEY, Peabody, Mass.
- No. 21 RUTLAND, Vt., War Conference, June 22-23-24, 1943
PRES. WILLIAM C. MAHONEY, Peabody, Mass.
- No. 22 THE BALSAMS, Dixville Notch, N. H., June 27-28-29, 1944
PRES. M. W. LAWTON, Middletown, Conn.
- No. 23 Cancelled because of the War
PRES. ALLEN F. PAYSON, Camden, Maine
- No. 24 THE WENTWORTH, Portsmouth, N. H., June 25-26-27, 1946
PRES. ALLEN F. PAYSON, Camden, Maine
- No. 25 THE WENTWORTH, Portsmouth, N. H., June 24-25-26, 1947
PRES. FRANK J. CALLAHAN, Central Falls, R. I.
- No. 26 THE WENTWORTH, Portsmouth, N. H., June 22-23-24, 1948
PRES. ARTHUR W. SPRING, Laconia, N. H.
- No. 27 THE WENTWORTH, Portsmouth, N. H., June 21-22-23, 1949
PRES. CHIEF WILLIAM H. HILL, Belmont, Mass.
- No. 28 THE WENTWORTH, Portsmouth, N. H., June 20-21-22, 1950
PRES. CHIEF STUART M. POTTER, Greenwich, Conn.
- No. 29 THE WENTWORTH, Portsmouth, N. H., June 19-20-21-22, 1951
PRES. CHIEF WILLIAM H. CLIFFORD, Cape Elizabeth, Maine
- No. 30 THE WENTWORTH, Portsmouth, N. H., June 23-24-25-26, 1952
PRES. JOSEPH E. SCANLON, Lynn, Mass.
- No. 31 THE WENTWORTH, Portsmouth, N. H., June 22-23-24-25, 1953
PRES. ANTHONY J. MOLLOY, Nashua, N. H.
- No. 32 THE WENTWORTH, Portsmouth, N. H., June 21-22-23-24, 1954
PRES. CHIEF HENRI E. FORTIER, Manville, R. I.

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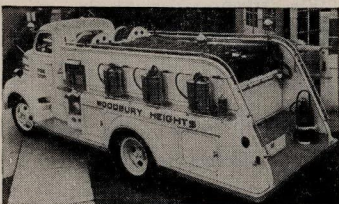
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Depend in a Large Measure
upon the
Activity and Faithfulness of
our Fire Departments

Our Best Wishes to the
New England Association of
Fire Chiefs



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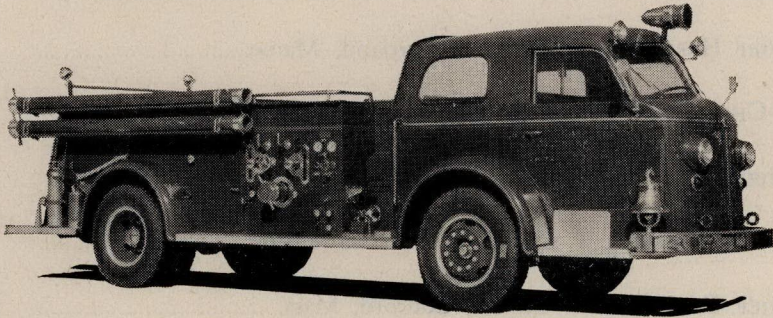
MASSACHUSETTS

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32nd ANNUAL REPORT

New England Association of Fire Chiefs

Monday Afternoon, June 21, 1954

The 32nd Annual Conference of the New England Association of Fire Chiefs convened at The Wentworth-By-The-Sea, Portsmouth, New Hampshire, on Monday Afternoon, June 21, 1954, at three-thirty o'clock, with President Henri E. Fortier presiding.

PRESIDENT FORTIER: Reverend Clergy, Members of the Association, Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen. It is now a pleasure for me to open this 32nd Annual Conference of the New England Association of Fire Chiefs, and I so declare the Conference opened.

We will now have the Invocation by the Reverend John P. Fitzsimmons of Belmont, one of our Chaplains.

REVEREND JOHN P. FITZSIMMONS: Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, unto Whom all hearts are opened, and all desires are known and from Whom no secrets are hidden, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love Thee, and worthily glorify Thy Holy Name.

Bless us with Thy Presence, that all that we do might have Thy sanction, and, as we return to Thee our love and our gratitude, give to us Thy Spirit. Amen.

PRESIDENT FORTIER: We are now going to hear the Address of Welcome from Mayor Theodore R. Butler, of Portsmouth, New Hampshire. (Applause.)

MAYOR THEODORE R. BUTLER of Portsmouth, New Hampshire: Mr. President, Honored Guests, Members of the New England Association of Fire Chiefs, their wives and friends. I am very happy to be here today, and, of course, we are very happy to have you here with us for more reasons than one.

It seems that a few years ago, we lived down the road, just adjacent to the golf course. My family used to arrive here around the first of June, and we always had a great deal of rain. My wife would often say:

Well, here's a good, rainy day."

And then, we would hear the Fire Chiefs going by, and they always brought the good weather with them. And that still applies today, because this is the beginning of our summer, June 21st, and it does mark our summer season.

We are happy to have you here, and I want to bring you the greetings from the City of Portsmouth, from all the citizens, and I hope that your stay is a beautiful one, for this is a lovely spot and a very pleasant one.

May you have a wonderful Conference here at the Wentworth-By-The-Sea! (Applause.)

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Multiple-Woven

with Dacron Construction is

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LIGHTER
EASIER TO HANDLE**

**YET ACTUALLY COSTS
FAR LESS PER YEAR!**



Eureka Multiple-Woven Fire Hose with its special Dacron* filler ply is far easier to handle because it's so flexible and lightweight. And it's the strongest, most durable hose made.

Important, too, it outlasts low-priced hose by anywhere from twelve to twenty years... with better performance every time. Include Eureka in your next appropriation.

*Du Pont's polyester fiber



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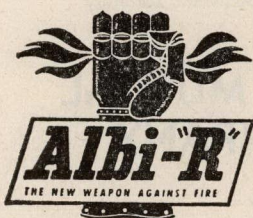
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PRESIDENT FORTIER. Thank you very much, Mayor Butler.

We are now going to have a few words from the City Manager, Robert C. Violette. (Applause.)

CITY MANAGER ROBERT C. VIOLETTE: Mr. President, Reverend Clergy, Members of the New England Association of Fire Chiefs, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

First of all, I want to thank you for your kind invitation to be with you here today on the opening of the 32nd Annual Conference. The people of Portsmouth and surrounding area are the ones who are greatly honored by your presence here. I am certain that every one concerned will do his share to make this visit a very pleasant one.

We hope that you will enjoy your stay here with us, as much as we enjoy having you, and that you will return to us in the near future, or at least next June, for your 33rd Annual Conference.

Thank you very much! (Applause.)

PRESIDENT FORTIER: Thank you very much, Mr. Violette.

We are now going to hear from Chief Ralph G. Seavey of Rochester, New Hampshire, President of the New Hampshire Fire Chiefs Club. (Applause.)

CHIEF RALPH G. SEAVEY of Rochester, New Hampshire: Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, and members of the New England Association of Fire Chiefs. It gives me great pleasure to extend to you the welcome of the New Hampshire Fire Chiefs Club. I know that there is no reason for me to express my opinion or their opinion in regard to your stay here, because I know that since 1946, you have always come back to The Wentworth.

That is the year that I joined this Association.

At this time, I want to extend to you and all of the Chiefs here the invitation to visit us in the New Hampshire Fire Chiefs Club, at any time you are in our vicinity.

Thank you very much! (Applause.)

PRESIDENT FORTIER: Thank you, Chief. Ladies and Gentlemen, we are very fortunate to have with us this afternoon a very distinguished member of our Association, who will bring the greetings of the International Association of Fire Chiefs to us, and it is a pleasure for me to introduce to you at this time Chief Henry G. Thomas of Hartford, Connecticut, President of the International Association.

CHIEF HENRY G. THOMAS, President, International Association of Fire Chiefs: Mr. President, Reverend Clergy, Fire Chiefs of the New England Association, your wives, my friends.

I am very grateful for the opportunity of attending, once more, the New England Conference, here at The Wentworth.

During your thirty-two years of holding Annual Conferences, nine of them have been in this most beautiful location. That all of these Conferences have been of value goes without saying, for you have profited by them, not only in renewing friendships once a year, but in taking back to your respective communities new ideas, new approaches to this job, this responsibility, this oftentimes terrific responsibility which you bear in furnishing adequate and effective fire protection to your communities.

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I stand with you, proud of the protection we give and of the profession that we represent, and I am particularly privileged, this year, to bring to you the greetings of the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

Now, the International Association is only the collection of divisions. It is an Association which has as its objective the furtherance of the fire service, not only the personnel in it, but also it is set up so that you and I may better serve our respective communities.

If I may be permitted to offer a suggestion to this Conference, it would be that each and every one of us, Fire Chiefs, stop and pause and think of the real objective of this meeting, which is to further our own education, to make us better and more capable Fire Chiefs, and at the same time God-fearing people, people who have faith in each other, faith in ourselves, and faith in God, which is so much needed today in this land where so many people doubt each other.

This year, it is again my special privilege to be able to introduce to you the new General Manager of the International Association of Fire Chiefs. I hope, as you see him and his family around the hotel, that you will stop and talk with him. He is not a fire-fighter, but you will find that he is a man of sound ideas, dedicated to you, dedicated to serving and to serving you.

My friends, I am delighted and very happy to present to you Mr. John D. Gerletti, the General Manager of the International Association of Fire Chiefs. (Applause.)

MR. JOHN D. GERLETTI: Thank you, Chief Thomas. Mr. President, Reverend Clergy, Members of this gathering of the New England Association of Fire Chiefs, and their friends and guests. I want to thank the entire fire service, and especially this New England Association, for the kind courtesies that you have extended to me since I have been General Manager of the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

For an outsider to come in and mingle with and work with and be with the fire service, and to be accepted the way I have been, it is certainly wonderful, and I want to thank you for that.

I was wonderfully honored today. Let me take three or four minutes to outline some of the things that happened at the International Association of Fire Chiefs, basically because the New England Association has again contributed some of the most outstanding leadership the International Association has ever had. I refer to your present President, Chief Thomas.

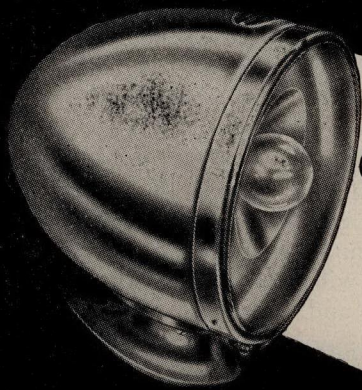
This year, we are undergoing a complete revision and re-evaluation of all goals and objectives, and a re-defining of them, for the International Association of Fire Chiefs, re-defining them in terms of the needs and wants of the Fire Chiefs, and making it, again, a real Chief's organization. We have had a slight revision in, and we anticipate having more, the general idea behind it being one of stimulating interest, one of writing something that the Fire Chiefs of the nation can be proud of, one that can bring out many new ideas in the fire service.

We started a new publication program of publishing things, not by outsiders of the fire service, but from within the fire service itself, such as the Fireman's Law Book.

We have started a new program of working with the Editors of the nation, at a national, top level.

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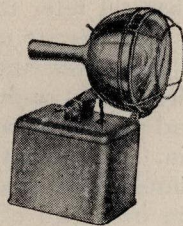
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We have written to every major editor in the United States, and we have called them personally and talked to them about who the fire service is, who the Chiefs are, what they represent, hoping to head off such articles like the Henderson article, in the Woman's Home Companion for April.

We had started our program long before that. Chief Thomas had seen this coming for some time, and worked on it immediately. And, we have had such results as the Readers' Digest asking us who should write for them, and what kind of articles should be published.

Parents' Magazine contacted us last year, asking if we couldn't do articles for them.

I bring these matters up, and there are many, many more, to show the kind of activity, the kind of thinking, that the New England Association, through President Thomas, has contributed to the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

Where I have been in here as an outsider of the fire service, I like to think of myself as a kind of person who can bring to the other people who can do the job, something, who can create action, who can get things started.

I should like to say, here and now, that if, at any time, I ever step out of line, every time we do anything which isn't exactly the way the New England Association would like it, we would certainly more than appreciate hearing from you, and about your problems.

I should like to close on a lighter vein. The next time any one from the New England Division says they can't afford to pay the dues of the International or the New England, I can remember, as I look around here at this plush hotel, the types of automobiles you fellows drive, so that I am going to be very, very hard on most of you!

Thank you very much! (Applause.)

PRESIDENT FORTIER: Thank you, Chief Thomas and Mr. Gerletti.

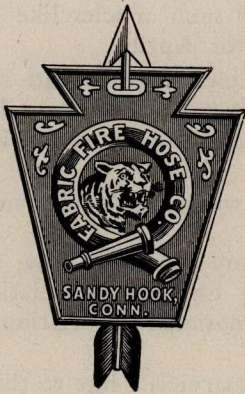
Before we proceed with the Memorial Exercises, I want to announce that immediately after this session, the New England Division of the International will have a meeting here.

We are next going to have the Response to the Addresses of Welcome, by Chief John F. Adams of Milford, Massachusetts. (Applause.)

CHIEF JOHN F. ADAMS of Milford, Massachusetts: Mr. President, Reverend Mr. Fitzsimmons, Father Collins, Reverend Mr. Lewis, Mayor Butler, City Manager Violette, President Thomas of the International, Distinguished Guests, Members of the New England Association, their wives and their friends and guests.

We convene here today for the 32nd Annual Conference of our Association, and, as I observe this splendid gathering here before me, and as I peruse the program providing the topics and the arrangements for this occasion, I can only make but one observation, and it is this: That we, the present day members of the Fire Services are equally as engulfed and as enthusiastic about pursuing further knowledge and education of our chosen work, as were our predecessors, at the first Conference of this organization, which was held in Bridgeport, in 1923.

It is true that the topics provided for consideration and discussion here today will differ considerably from those discussed in 1923; however, it must



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be remembered that our Fire Service provides a long line of ever-changing and most perplexing problems, to which we might attribute science, geographic location, modernization and present-day trends.

There is one thing that can be definitely said of our organization, and the record speaks for itself. We have always been progressive. We have not only attempted, but we have succeeded in analyzing and solving the problems with which we were confronted during our existence. We shall continue to treat the problems of the future, though inevitable in the fire service, in so long as this great nation of ours and the world in general continue to progress and prosper.

Our officers, annually, make every effort to provide this Association with a program filled with topics of extreme interest to every member of the fire service. It is the duty of every member of this organization to avail himself of the full knowledge which these topics provide, in order that he may return to his city or town with the greater knowledge of his job, so necessary for the proper administration of his department and the protection of the lives and properties of those under his charge.

We have been, this afternoon, as in previous years, officially and warmly welcomed by the representatives of the city of Portsmouth and the President of the New Hampshire Fire Chiefs Club. It would not suffice merely to say "Thank You" for the hospitality and cordiality of this State, the city of Portsmouth, the town of Newcastle, the management of the hotel, and the people who make up these communities, have for eight long years extended themselves to the utmost in order that every Conference would provide both education and enjoyment.

This organization has learned from experience and association with the people of these environs here in the old Granite State, which is so typically New England, that no other place affords the general hospitality, warmth and cordiality which are so conducive to worthy and intelligent deliberations, such as we are about to undertake here in these pleasant surroundings and in this lovely atmosphere.

We, of the New England Association of Fire Chiefs, not only say to you officials whose warm and sincere welcome we have received, many thanks for your best wishes for this, the Conference of 1954, but once again, we convey to you our most sincere thanks for the consideration and kindnesses so frequently demonstrated by your people on so many occasions during our association of the past.

Thank you very much! (Applause.)

PRESIDENT FORTIER: Very well said, Chief Adams. We are now going to proceed with the Memorial Exercises. First, we will have a selection from The Chapel Quartette.

(Appropriate musical numbers were then given by The Chapel Quartette.)

SECRETARY O'HEARN: This is the Roll of Honor of our Deceased Members who have passed away since our last conference.

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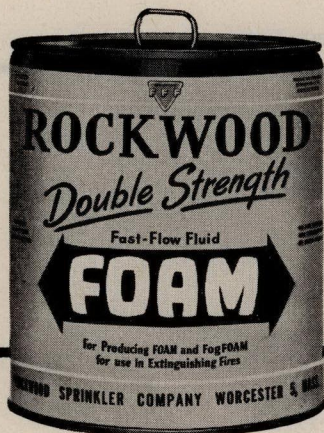
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EDWARD A. RENY, Ex-Chief, Westbrook, Maine

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RALPH B. HARNDEN, Ex-Chief, Auburn, Maine

Admitted January 18, 1946, died July 6, 1953

C. E. JACOBS, Chief, Wakefield, Mass.

Admitted January 16, 1946, died July 25, 1953

JOHN J. SHÉRIDAN, Ex-Chief, Naugatuck, Conn.

Admitted Aug. 18, 1941, died Sept. 11, 1953

CLIFFORD H. BARKER, Boston Coupling Company

Admitted Aug. 18, 1941, died Sept. 20, 1953

NORMAN C. TARR, Ex-Assistant Chief, Wenham, Mass.

Admitted July 25, 1946, died June 27, 1953

DONALD J. KELLEY, Chief, Burlington, Vt.

Admitted Aug. 18, 1941, died Oct. 30, 1953

HERMAN BUSSMAN, Former Fire Commissioner, New Haven, Conn.

Admitted June 18, 1930, died November 3, 1953

CHARLES N. PAGE, North Hampton, New Hampshire

Admitted June 22, 1931, died November 30, 1953

HAROLD E. NICKERSON, Chief, Brunswick, Maine

Admitted June 4, 1943, died Dec. 14, 1953

GEORGE MULLEN, Chief, Shrewsbury, Mass.

Admitted June 22, 1943, died Dec. 26, 1953

ROBERT M. O'LEARY, Assistant Chief, Meriden, Conn.

Admitted July 2, 1949, died Jan. 3, 1954

DENNIS J. COUGHLIN, Deputy Chief, Boston Fire Department

Admitted May 24, 1945, died Jan. 16, 1954

JOHN F. COTTER, Fire Commissioner, Boston, Mass.

Admitted June 15, 1953, died Jan. 23, 1954

C. FRANK CREEDEN, Ex-Chief, Newburyport, Mass.

Admitted June 26, 1928, died February 2, 1954

CHARLES A. DELANEY, Chief, Lakewood, Ohio, Past-President, International Association of Fire Chiefs

Admitted June 26, 1947, died March 20, 1954

SAMUEL ANDERSON, Cambridge, Mass.

Admitted May 24, 1949, died April 2, 1954

(The members stood in silence, in reverent memory of the departed members of the Association. Taps were sounded. The Chapel Quartette then gave another appropriate selection.)

SECRETARY O'HEARN: The following resolution, Mr. President and Members of the Association, will be made a part of the record of this Memorial Service. This was prepared by our Chaplain, Reverend Michael F. Collins:

WHEREAS, Almighty God, in His wisdom and justice, has seen fit to call from our midst, members of the New England Association of Fire Chiefs, and

WHEREAS, while they were in earth, we cherished, loved and respected them for their sterling character and for their unselfish devotion to duty, and

WHEREAS, gathered here today, we feel a distinct sense of loss in their passing,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That we, the members of the New England Association of Fire Chiefs, do hereby pause in our Conference to pay honor and respect to their memory,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That we will always strive to hold their memory dear and their deeds inspiring,

AND BE IT ALSO FURTHER RESOLVED: That we, the living, shall carry on as heads of our Departments with the memory of their achievements guiding us on, and always, will we ask our Divine Savior, our Lord, to bless and shelter our comrades in their Heavenly home forever.

Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord. And may their souls rest in peace. Amen.

PRESIDENT FORTIER: The Memorial Address will now be given by Reverend William W. Lewis, Minister of the Unitarian-Universalist Church, and Fire Department Chaplain of Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

REVEREND WILLIAM W. LEWIS: In these days of anxiety, it is well for us to set aside these few moments that we have together to inquire into the basic meaning of life, itself. It goes without saying, and it would be trite for me to repeat it, that during the few minutes that are mine, these are days of anxiety, and these are days of trouble and discouragement. We accept that, because we accept the very fact that this is a basic experience of man, through which he must go to discover that kind of refreshment and security with which he can face life as a whole.

And this, very simply, is the courage required of each one of us, and yet, this eternal question remains. How is it possible for us, as individuals, to create those resources that breed compassion, that build understanding, and that nurture and foster inward strife, or strength?

And yet, this is the very reason that we are gathered here, and this is the very reason we take these few moments to think about those great and abiding realities which we have in common with so many of our friends.

We recall to mind the continuity of our association. We recall to mind the names of men who have been the revered leaders in our communities, those individuals who have been diligent and loyal and sacrificing in their work, men in whose line we are proud to stand.

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Some time ago, Benaro Overstreet wrote a volume, the title of which I have forgotten, but there was one indelible chapter printed upon my mind. This chapter was entitled "Choosing our spiritual ancestors." She outlined the very simple truth, that it is impossible for any one of us to have any choice over his blood descendants. We cannot choose, for example, our mothers or our fathers, or our grandparents, our uncles or our aunts. But, it is perfectly possible, she pointed out, for us to choose that ancestry, that line of men, in whose tradition we are proud to stand. This is the kind of a spiritual ancestry that we honor and revere here today. And yet, there are two very simple qualities needed in every one of us, if we would fulfill this kind of destiny.

These two qualities can easily be summed up in the words "transmission" and "receptivity" and these are words that are not reserved for the technological advances found in either radio or television, but they are seen as fundamental laws of life, from which man gains purpose and also understands his fellow men.

You know, as well as I do, that in order to hear sound clearly over the radio, or to have a clear picture on our television sets, the transmission must be undisturbed or unblurred, and our sets are mechanical sets, so they must be in working order. If something is wrong at the transmitting station, our perspective that we get is altogether warped and blurred.

I say that this is the same with ourselves and with our world.

These properties of life with which we deal and which we honor in these moments are properties of life that are always present; but, unless we transmit them to others, we fail in maintaining our celebration of the spirit of memory, for truth and goodness and beauty and loyalty and sacrificial services are the responsibilities of all men everywhere, and life is different than the mere twisting of a television knob to adjust a picture into focus, or turning the sound on in our radio sets.

We have found, from our experience, that man must, in order to gain a new sense of order from life, become a participant, an active participant in the orderliness of life itself. And yet, this responsibility is also two-fold. Our task is not only to transmit these qualities, but also to prepare ourselves in order to receive them.

We must be receptive to the wholeness of the truth that now is available in every area of human experience.

You know as well as I do that at one time, truth was limited to a certain sphere of influence, ad infinitum. But some years ago, in the body of literature, for example, truth was supposed to be contained within such writings as the Bible, writings of Shakespeare, Milton and the like.

But, more important for us to day is that as our world has grown in scope, so the body of pertinent literature has increased. As the world has shrunk in size, so is the necessity for our understanding of other peoples and other cultures increased, likewise.

Therefore, the knowledge of other lands and other cultures is now a "must" to every man who would be receptive to the responsibility he bears.

Our world is one, even though some agents of disaster and chaos in our world seem to think that our world shall be destroyed.

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But, how else can we respect the right of universal brotherhood, than only by our willingness to receive these new extremes of truth, for it is only then that we can apply our understanding.

Some years ago, a French artist was commissioned to do the murals in the Public Library of Boston, and one of his friends remarked to him:

"I do not understand why you have done this job the way that it has been accomplished, for your craftsmanship is very poor."

And the artist replied very simply:

"I want to make the Americans look at color."

Well, I think it is true that any great artist would say that the craftsmanship contained in those murals is not of the highest quality; from the standards of the line and symmetry and proportion in which we have been engulfed throughout the past years, it is not the kind of proportion that we might expect, but if one looks beyond that and looks into the delicate shading of the colors themselves and into the relationship of the figures that are there in those murals, he somehow or another builds a new kind of appreciation for this creative concept of the artist.

Therefore, it seems to me that even as new delight is experienced, new wisdom comes to man. And this is the basic reason why we recall the lives of those who have gone before us, those who have been of loyal service to the profession to which we are committed, those who are always diligent to discover new proportions of beauty, and new appreciation for the basic concerns of life.

For friendship and loyalty and fair-play and cooperation and service in the paths of our daily duties, all these and many more are the sum-total of our experience, and with them, we face the reality of our world and strive for understanding.

The person who lives his best will always transmit the best, because he will always be able to receive the best from life. And this will be the person who has discovered the basic meaning of eternal life, for himself and for his world.

(The Chapel Quartette then rendered another appropriate selection.)

PRESIDENT FORTIER: At this time, I am going to call upon Father Collins, to give the Benediction.

REVEREND MICHAEL F. COLLINS: O God, our Heavenly Father, once more today, we recommend to Thy tender care and loving mercy, the souls of our departed comrades.

We ask You in a special way today, O Lord, that never may You allow us to forget our comrades, our friends, and our loved ones.

Bless our dead, today, O Lord, and may they always rest in peace. Amen.

PRESIDENT FORTIER: I now declare this Session of our Conference adjourned.

(Whereupon, the Monday Afternoon Session was adjourned at four-thirty o'clock.)

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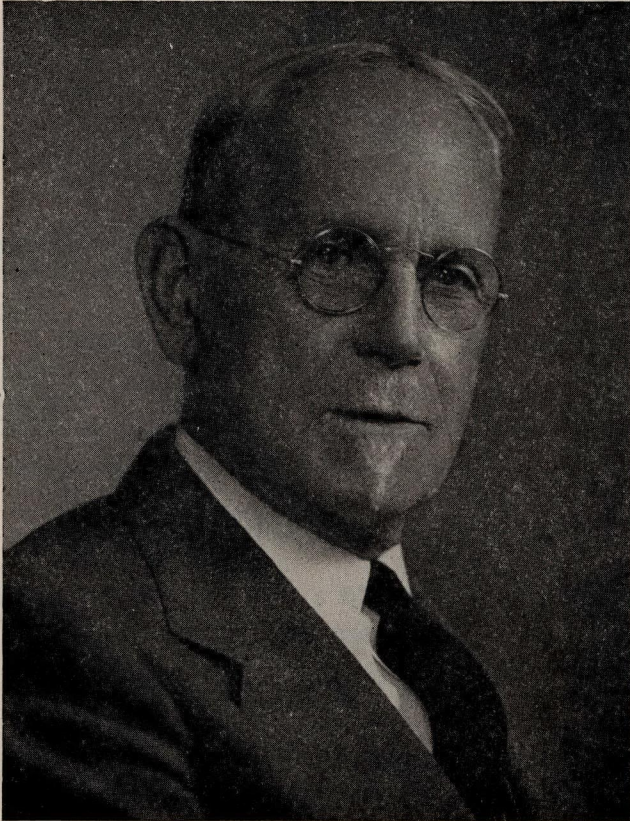


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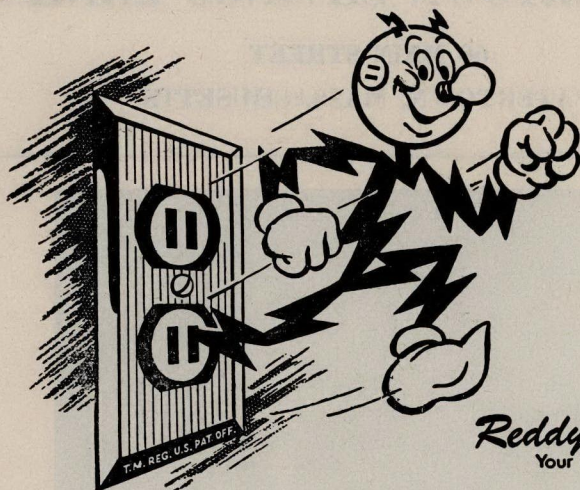
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Tuesday Morning, June 22, 1954

The Tuesday Morning Session was called to order by President Fortier, on June 22, 1954, at 9:45 o'clock.

PRESIDENT FORTIER: The meeting will please come to order, Gentlemen. First, I have some appointments to announce for Committees, as follows:

For the Resolutions Committee, Chief Lewis A. Marshall of Providence, Rhode Island, Chief Walter R. Murray, Weymouth, Massachusetts, and Chief G. Napoleon Guevin of Manchester, New Hampshire.

For the Courtesies Committee, Chief Francis Scully, of Waterbury, Connecticut, Chief Clinton Murray, Cape Elizabeth, Maine, and Chief Richard C. Holmes, of Windsor, Vermont.

Due to the heat, we have thrown the etiquette book into the river, so that it is permissible to be without coats, today.

First on our program this morning, we are going to have an address by Mr. Edward M. Johnson, Division Service Manager, Suburban U. D. I. Company, Portland, Maine, on the subject of "Some Facts About LP Gas."

Mr. Johnson! (Applause.)

MR. EDWARD M. JOHNSON: Thank you, very much, Mr. President. Let me say, Gentlemen, first of all, that it is a pleasure for me to be here, and incidentally, it is gratifying and somewhat surprising to see so many of you out at a little after nine-thirty in the morning, in view of the festive occasion held here last evening and throughout the hotel. You Fire Chiefs must be pretty stout characters to withstand a barrage like that and come up fighting!

My industry is always happy to speak to people who have to do with fire hazards and things of that nature. We believe that it is to our benefit and to your benefit, and to the benefit of the general public, if we can swap information, and, as you know, our problems are best understood when we realize what they are.

I should like to more closely acquaint you with our product, Liquefied Petroleum Gas. That product is one that has a thousand and one trade names, tank gas, bottled gas, farm gas, and so forth and so on. But, the product itself, technically, is called propane.

Propane is a hydro-carbon, and it is in the same family as natural gas, fuel oil, gasoline, benzine, all of those things that are born of crude petroleum. Its components are the same, and it differs only in small characteristics, boiling point, and several other items.

So that it isn't a total stranger. It is, however, unique in one respect, and differs vastly from the other fuels, in this particular respect, in that it can be a liquid or a gas, with no difficulty. It doesn't take a great deal of effort or pressure to change it from a liquid to a gas, and it will vaporize of its own accord, from a liquid to a gas.

Now, this feature probably accounts for the rapid growth throughout the United States; because of this feature, it can be transported, and concentrated as a liquid, and then readily gasified at the consumer's premises, so it can be used in travel for the appliance under its own power.

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Now, that vaporization set-up works something like this. In a standard container, when full, it will contain 85 per cent liquid, and 20 per cent vapor space. With no gas being withdrawn from the system, the system is static. And the liquid and the vapor are at rest. But, when you open the valve on a propane cylinder and release some of the vapor, dropping the pressure within the vapor head, then the liquid will start to boil and as it boils in the same fashion as does a steam boiler, it will furnish more vapor for the job, and that process will continue as long as there is a demand.

Now, that process of vaporization is a heat absorbing process; heat from the atmosphere has to be absorbed through the walls of the cylinder, in order to cause the boiling, and so forth.

Therefore, in some cases, you will find multiple cylinder installation on that account, to provide the necessary heat transfer into the liquid, to take care of a large load.

Although you are probably familiar with propane, or bottled gas, in a general way, I should like to convey to you some of the specific characteristics of it. I do this because by knowing the specific characteristics, you can predict the behavior of the gas, under certain conditions.

To begin with, it is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas, and, for that reason, we odorize the fuel, in order to facilitate detection, and we odorize it in accordance with the recommendation of the national organization, so that it will be detectable, at one-fifth of the lower limit of inflammability, well in advance of any possible hazardous concentration.

The limits of inflammability of propane are quite narrow, as compared with the several other fuel gases, from 2.4 per cent of gas to 9.5 per cent of gas, in a gas-air mixture.

City gas, for instance, would be from 1 per cent to 30 per cent in the range of inflammability.

Acetylene is around 1 to approximately 80 per cent.

Natural gas is just slightly lighter than propane. They are very close, incidentally, as far as their burning characteristics are concerned.

Because propane is a fuel gas, it has what we call a heat content, or it will release a certain quantity of heat, when burned or combined with oxygen. The heat content of propane is about 2,550 BTU per cubic foot, or 91,800 per liquid gallon. As far as a gallon liquid measure is concerned, gasoline has about 126,000. No. 2 fuel would be 140,000.

As to a cubic foot comparison with other fuel gases, propane has five times the heat content per cubic foot than city gas, for instance, and about two and a half times the heat content of natural gas.

Now, don't misconstrue me on that point. It is not hotter. The flame intensities of all fuel gases, when combined with air, are very nearly the same, but the heat released, the quantity of heat, is much greater than most other fuel gases.

Specific gravity is a characteristic by which you identify various gases, and the specific gravity of propane is important. It is about one and one-half times heavier than air. For a long time, the industry and other persons connected with it thought that the gravity, since it was one and one-half times heavier, was important from the standpoint of the collection of the gas in low areas or in basements or other places of that description.

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However, recent studies have indicated that although and even though the gas is a bit heavier, it does not tend to accumulate over periods of time; only on initial leakage will it drop to the low areas, and then even without any natural draft or ventilation, it will diffuse itself into the atmosphere on the basis of molecular diffusion.

For instance, if we released the quantity of propane in this area, perhaps in this corner, and left this room completely closed, with no air, and if we came back after a lapse of time, we would find the mixture in the room was complete, rather than a lowering of propane on the floor, stratified.

Some areas, or low spots can be ventilated, over a period of time, even though the gas be a bit heavier.

I should tell you, too, that propane is non-toxic; in other words, it can be breathed without harmful effects, as long as you have a sufficient amount of oxygen to sustain life, much in the same fashion that an inert gas would have effect.

Because this gas is a fuel gas, there are certain definite hazards connected with it, and connected with the handling of the gas. They fall into three broad categories.

Fire and explosion is the extreme hazard, of course. Then, there is the liquid temperature, which is a minimum hazard. And there is the straight hazard of stored pressure.

Let us examine those individually. The hazard of liquid temperature is not great, but it should be recognized.

Since propane exists as a gas, and turns to a liquid only when compressed, or when refrigerated to below its boiling point, it is very cold in the liquid state. If we had a container of propane, unconfined, in this room, the temperature of the propane would be somewhere between 45 and 50 degrees below zero, because that is its boiling point, and an unconfined liquid cannot be raised above its boiling point. The heat absorbed from the atmosphere, by virtue of its higher temperature, is dissipated in boiling. So the liquid, when free, is very cold. If it is escaping from a break in a pipe, it is even colder than the 50 degrees below zero; because of the cooling effect of vaporization, it will be down to 60 or 65. Should any of the cold liquid come in contact with the hands, the flesh, etc., you would receive what is commonly known as a propane burn, which, actually, of course, is frost-bite.

The freezing is very rapid, because of the low temperature. And therefore, care should be taken in the presence of free liquid propane, so that none of it spatters on any part of the body.

Now, let us examine the hazard of stored pressure. Pressure, in a propane cylinder or tank, is dependent entirely upon the ambient or surrounding temperature. For instance, at 45 to 50 below, the pressure on propane would be zero. At zero F. when confined as a liquid under pressure, the pressure of the propane would be around 23 pounds per square inch.

At an ambient temperature of 100 degrees, the pressure on the propane would be about 173 pounds per square inch.

So that it varies with the temperature. In the winter, we might have temperatures that would mean approximately 25 to 30 pounds per square inch. Whereas in the summer time, it is conceivable that we could go as high as 185 to 190 pounds, if the cylinder were sitting in the sun.

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Of course, any withdrawal of vapor tends to reduce the pressure by cooling the liquid. Some pressures will not always correspond to the surrounding temperatures, unless the cylinder is at rest.

Now, to take care of that normal working pressure of the cylinder and tank, they are designed with a working pressure, that is, for the 100 pounds, and the smaller cylinder, of 240 pounds per square inch. And, for the large tanks of 10,000 to 18,000 to 30,000, they are designed for a working pressure of 200 pounds per square inch, or 250, and these cylinders and tanks are properly relieved. So that any excessive build-up of pressure, and that is usually caused by high temperature, for instance, such as a cylinder involved in fire, the relief valves provide for the exit of high pressure.

On a cylinder, an ICC cylinder, they are released at about 375 pounds per square inch. This release may be spring-loaded, or it may be a fusible plug, or it may be both. The tendency at the present time in the industry is to equip cylinder valves with both types of release, the fusible plug and spring-loading.

The fusible plug type releases at 165 degrees, which corresponds to the 375 pounds of pressure in the spring-loaded release.

The larger vessels, bulk tanks, will contain only spring-loaded release. In addition to the pressure setting requirement, there is also a flow requirement for each individually sized tank, so that the release value installed will be adequate to take care of the flow under any condition of elevated temperature.

The spring-loaded release is only on the larger tanks. They are set to discharge from 100 to 125 per cent of the working pressure of the vessel.

So much for tank pressure. Now, we cannot utilize tank pressure in domestic and commercial appliances. Nor is it ever utilized, even on industrial set-ups.

Regulating equipment, installed outside of any building or house, is used to reduce the pressure from whatever the tank pressure may be to a low-stated pressure.

This pressure is measured in inches of water column in the gas industry, and the level of utilization pressure is 11 inches, water column, or about 6½ ounces per square inch, which is a low pressure.

The regulating equipment is also equipped with a relief valve designed to operate at one pound per square inch, and the spring-loading is built in, usually, to the regulating equipment. This prevents the entrance of any pressure into the dwelling house or store in excess of one pound per square inch, and that, of course, functions only in the event that the regulator is not correctly operating.

So that there, you have the picture of pressures that we use in the LP industry, not high by standards, industrial comparison of other various stored pressures, air and water pressure in city system, and so forth.

The hazard of fire and explosion, of course, is the greatest hazard. That hazard can come about only through the presence of an accumulation of unburned fuel, correctly mixed with the right amount of air.

With propane, the limits of inflammability are narrow, so that helps us with this particular hazard, and it is difficult to get a correct mix. As a matter of fact, when we engineer equipment and appliances, we have to take a bit more care than with the other fuel gases, because of these narrow limits.



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On the other hand, we have a more highly concentrated fuel.

A cubic foot of leakage has five times the potential that a cubic foot of leakage of city gas would have, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ times the potential of natural gas.

So that we have more or less of a balance, as far as the fire and explosion hazard is concerned, as compared with the other fuel gases.

Free or unburned gas can only come about through leakage, mal-function of equipment in the normal operation of release valves, personal inattention to detail of installation, human error, and all of those things that usually contribute to any hazard.

And, of course, the answer to combating the fire and explosion hazard with any fuel gas is to properly confine it within its conduits, appurtenances and devices.

That responsibility is recognized by the industry, and there is a great deal being done by the industry to prevent that situation. We have pamphlets published by the National Fire Protection Association, the Liquefied Gas and Petroleum Association, American Gas tests even list our devices. All of those people formulate rules and put out publications for us to go by, and a great amount of help is procured by the use of their pamphlets.

However, as far as they go, they are fine; but, unless they are used by the individual who is actually doing the work, they are to no avail. So that in my mind, the responsibility for a safe propane system, safe-handling, rests, ultimately, with the individual who is doing the work and it is up to his superiors and the enforcing authority to see that he executes his job properly; if he does, the hazard of handling any fuel gas is greatly minimized.

Now, there are several situations that you, as fire fighters, will be called upon to face, with regard to bottled gas.

Probably the most common situation involves a fire, at a domestic dwelling, where bottled gas is being used, and, luckily for us, this involves a large percentage of houses in the rural areas.

It is unusual today to find a rural dwelling that is not equipped with bottled gas. So that that, probably, is your most common situation.

Now, let me outline what we believe to be the correct procedure when you arrive at a dwelling fire, involving bottled gas. This also applies to any commercial establishment, store or other place that has gas either in small or large quantities in cylinders.

First of all, if the fire has not progressed to the point where it involves the LP cylinders, they should be removed and taken to a safe distance. First, of course, you would close the cylinder valves, and then if time permits, you would remove the connection to the cylinder, which, incidentally, is a left-hand thread, as are all fuel gas cylinders, whereas the inerts and oxygen will be right, and the fuel gas will be left. If time does not permit, then a pair of wire cutters, electrician's pliers, will clip anything like that. Then, the cylinder can be removed to a safe place.

If you have time, we wouldn't mind if you took the regulating equipment off, also; that will save us a few bucks.

Now, in the event that the fire has progressed to the area of the cylinder, you will have to exercise common sense and good judgment as to whether or not you remove it. For my money, if the cylinders are close to any large flame, or if there are any embers near them, if there is any fire within the area,



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do not approach the cylinders; leave them alone, because at any moment, the release valve may let go, and that presents quite a stream of fire. It is probably a 12-foot rush of flame, burning perhaps 4 feet off the nozzle, and is usually directed away from the center of the installation, parallel to the building, because that is the way the cylinders are set in.

So that if you have any doubt about whether or not the cylinders have been warmed up at all, leave them alone. Do not play water on the cylinders, because by doing so, you may keep a fusible plug from operating correctly.

Now, it is true that if you can be sure the cylinders have a spring-loaded release, a stream of water would be indicated to keep the cylinders cool and from building pressure.

But, you may have a cylinder with only a fusible plug, and if you do play water on it, it is conceivable that pressure could build up, and you would have an excessive pressure condition in the cylinder.

Another point is that you are tying up a loss that could be used on combustibles.

So we believe that the cylinder should not be wet down and kept cool, but should be left alone. You know, better than I do, that if you play water on the combustible, even in the presence of intense fire, you can keep the combustible from catching, and you won't have a problem for over a few minutes in the cylinder, because in elevated temperatures, and so forth, they will discharge themselves very rapidly.

I had occasion to see a couple of cylinders go, a while back, and I don't think it was over three minutes, intermittently, that they were completely empty, and they were no longer a problem to the fire, and they controlled the combustibles within the area.

That is probably your greatest incidence of LP, as concerned with fires.

It is conceivable that if you have a bulk plant in your area, sometime you might be called upon to attend a call at that particular station. It is certainly something that you should be aware of, and have studied and gone over the flow diagram of the bulk plant, with the Manager.

Briefly, a bulk plant consists of a tank car unloading station, a compressor for transferring the liquid, a large storage tank, pumping facilities, and a building used for manifolding and filling of cylinders by the pump.

There is a great deal of piping, a great deal of valving. And, familiarity with the valves, of course, is the No. 1 weapon, I should say, in combating a bulk plant fire. Secondly, the storage tanks should be kept cool. They have spring-loaded release only, so that you are not getting into difficulty in so far as fusible plugs are concerned. You have contained there a great deal more fuel, and by designating a couple of hose lines, you can keep 10,000, 15,000 or 20,000 gallons of propane cool, so that you will not further involve the fire. That has been proven; that has been done a certain number of times.

There is one thing that I should like to impress upon you very strongly, and it is this. Do not extinguish a propane fire, unless by so doing, you can shut off the source of the fuel. I think that you can all appreciate the hazard of an accumulation of unburned gas, as compared with burning fuel. It is a great deal more extreme to have an area loaded with a mixture of fuel and gas, than

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it is to have a broken pipe burning. As long as it is burning, it may involve other structures, buildings, etc., but it will not create a large flash fire or an explosion that will cause much damage.

So that if you see these cyclinders at bulk plants, and the piping is burning, the thing to do is to let it burn, and try to cut off the source of the fuel. If you can do that, and keep the storage tanks cool, you will probably lick the fire easily.

As a matter of fact, I don't know of any occasion, other than the very remote instance, where you would have a reason for extinguishing a propane fire. And, if you do have occasion for it, I think that you are probably acquainted with the proper method of putting out.

I will mention that, personally, I think that dry chemicals do an excellent job. Fog is also effective. The chemicals seem to be more spectacular with regard to control.

First-aid equipment, of course, is the greatest piece of equipment, as far as propane fires are concerned, because if they can be taken care of when small and shut off, you are in business. If the thing progresses to the point where the bulk plant is fairly well gone, the best you can do is cool the tanks, shut them off, isolate the fuel, and let the thing go up in smoke, which it will.

A propane fire, incidentally, will burn in a small area, in a short time, and straight up. There is no spattering or scattering of the fuel gas, such as there would be with gasoline.

There is one other problem that you, as fire fighters, may have to face, and that involves the dispersion of unburned fuel. For instance, if there has been a leak in an area, a basement or a building, or any yard is filled with unburned fuel, then, of course, it will be your duty to take care of that situation.

Now, by normal ventilation, a small basement, or a building, can be cleared of fuel.

The No. 1 thing to think of in this case is to kill all sources of ignition. Propane cannot be ignited by jarring or thumping, or electricity, unless there is a spark. It has to have a spark, or an open flame. The ignition temperature is 890 to 1,000 degrees, before it can be touched off.

In the case of an area filled with unburned fuel, all smoking, matches, flames, pilots, should be extinguished and the building allowed to ventilate itself, by opening all the windows.

If you have available an explosion proof boiler or fan, that can be used to advantage to speed up the ventilation of any area, but the motor, of course, must be explosion proof, too. It is unlikely that an ordinary fire company would have that type of equipment, so it can be done in a gravity basis. The only real way to tell whether or not an area is free of fuel is to use some type of explosion meter that indicates whether or not combustible gas is present in sufficient quantity to ignite.

Generally speaking, with propane, when the odor is gone, the gas is gone.

However, the odor may linger a bit beyond the fuel, but you are on the safe side; if the odor is out, usually the gas is out. The odor is non-fatiguing; in other words, you don't become used to it. You can smell, as long as it is there.

Now, Gentlemen, that is all that I have for you this morning, unless you have some questions for me.

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Thank you very much! (Applause.)

PRESIDENT FORTIER: Thank you, Mr. Johnson. Are there any questions that any one would like to ask Mr. Johnson?

CHIEF BOLAND: Can you tell us what causes or what can be done to remedy cooking ranges from exploding?

MR. JOHNSON: Yes, I think I can. First of all, all of the normal precautions with regard to proper hook-up materials, etc., should be used. And, customer instruction by the service man, the selling company, is extremely important.

The greatest contributing factor in oven explosions is human error. In other words, whoever is responsible for lighting the oven turns on the gas prematurely, applies the match too late, or there may be any number of things that human beings are prone to do. By statistics, that is the greatest cause of oven incidents.

As to what can be done and what is being done, I might say that very rapidly, the industry, as fast as they can get public acceptance, will put what we call a safety pilot valve on the oven burner, and there will be no lighting of the oven by match; the woman will merely turn on the oven and the burner is ignited by the pilot.

Now, if ignition is not present when she turns on the gas, no gas will flow to the main burner, because of a device, keeping the pilot valve open, when the pilot is present, and allows it to close if the pilot should inadvertently go out.

Where those valves are used on domestic and commercial ovens, there is no evidence of oven explosion or flash fire, which is usually the case.

QUESTION: Are those coming out?

MR. JOHNSON: They have been available for twenty-odd years, but during the past three years, they have been extremely more prevalent, and most ranges today, I am happy to say, that is, the quality lines, not the price models, have that valve on them. I should not be surprised to see it become standard, shortly.

CHIEF BOLAND: I have had four of them, over a period of five years.

MR. JOHNSON: Yes; I am not surprised at that.

CHIEF AMES: Don't you believe that there should be some protection to the copper tubing running across the cellar? You know, sometimes they hang the lawn mowers, the rakes and everything on there. Don't you think there should be something to keep it from being damaged?

MR. JOHNSON: To the best of my knowledge, there has been little incidence of breaking of copper tubing within the home. The tubing used is 125-pound tested, and some of the copper has considerable strength in it.

The pressure is about 6½ ounces per square inch, so it is way over-gearred, as far as the pressure is concerned.

Of course, we certainly do not recommend hanging rakes, etc. on it; that is an error on the part of the customer.

CHIEF BOLAND: But they will do it.

MR. JOHNSON: People will do most anything, unfortunately. How-

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ever, we do not too often run across the basement if we can help it. If we go in that direction, we like to get on a beam, and at right angles.

CHIEF POTTER: Is sprinkler protection recommended?

MR. JOHNSON: By certain organizations, it is. For instance, and these gentlemen can correct me if I am wrong, the Factory Mutual, I think, likes to see a spray. It isn't universally done. It is done in some cases in the southern climates, to prevent excessive pressure. It is done in certain instances, in large tank drums, for instance, to keep it cool in case of fire.

However, it is not the general practice; nor is it recommended strongly by the various bodies, for ordinary, small, bulk plants or industrial storage.

CHIEF CONNOR: In the matter of bulk storage plants, first, I wonder if you are in a position to discuss the fire at Augusta, which occurred only a short time after the plant was opened in the morning.

MR. JOHNSON: That occurred with my organization; that was a bulk plant belonging to my company, in Augusta.

Yes, I can discuss it in so far as we are able to do so, with regard to the cause. I presume that is what you had in mind.

We haven't been able to place any definite cause on the fire, to the best of my knowledge; nor have other individuals who have attempted to do so.

I think that the University of Maine, and Mr. Flynn's department probably did some work along those lines. I was not, myself, particularly close to that investigation, or to the fire.

Secondly, there was an accumulation from some source still unknown, of unburned fuel, a small accumulation.

And, there was ignition, presumably, from a static electricity source. And the two were brought together, and a small fire ensued in the area of the filling manifold.

An attempt was made by the operator to extinguish it with a dry chemical extinguisher. He was unable to do so, he had to evacuate the plant, in order to avoid serious burns. He did have slight burns.

Beyond that, we have no definite knowledge of the origin of the fire.

CHIEF CONNOR: I was hopeful that you might be able to determine the cause of it. We have had a number of bulk storage plant fires, and I presume you must be studying them in order to try to reduce them.

MR. JOHNSON: Yes, we are, and, as far as static electricity is concerned, we take every precaution that modern engineering has for us at the moment. That particular plant was well-grounded, with regard to static, as are most plants. It may not have been static; it is still speculation. Furthermore, there wasn't a great deal left to go on at the end of the fire.

The Augusta Department cooled the tanks, and they were successful, incidentally, in containing the fire to the building area, which was a very short distance from the tanks. Are you from Augusta, sir?

CHIEF CONNOR: No.

MR. JOHNSON: I don't believe the silver paint on the storage tanks was hardly scorched, and I don't know how many thousands of gallons were contained in there. A former bulk plant operator for us, who was in the area,

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went to the tanks, under a cooling stream, and shut off all of the tank valves; there weren't too many open, because it was the first thing in the morning, and I think the only valve he got that was open was the heating line; that is, the gas that comes off for heating the plant building. The pumping line was closed prior to that.

The fuel contained in cylinders on the platform, in the plant, and in the lines, was totally consumed. As I recall it, it was in the vicinity of 13,000 gallons, and there wasn't too much time involved in that particular fire, either.

CHIEF ANDREWS of New Bedford: You advised not placing streams of water on the cylinders, where they may become heated?

MR. JOHNSON: Yes, I do advise that.

CHIEF ANDREWS. If you do that, due to the fact that the side of the building is on fire, then some of it, naturally, goes on the cylinders, and wouldn't that reduce the pressure and the cooling effect?

MR. JOHNSON: Yes, it definitely would.

CHIEF ANDREWS: And present an explosion?

MR. JOHNSON: Yes, your thinking is correct. And, if you could be sure there was a spring-loaded release, then that would be indicated; but, where some cylinders are equipped with fusible plugs, there is always a chance that the plug may be cooled and the pressure still built up beyond the relief or release point, which, of course, is a more extreme hazard. If the cylinder releases normally, it is a problem for only a few minutes.

CHIEF ANDREWS: My point is that if you did place water on it and the fusible plug did not release, could a cylinder explode?

MR. JOHNSON: It is possible, barely possible, perhaps; your thinking is very straight, and I am sure that industry people and other fire people enjoy that line of thinking with you.

I, personally, do not recommend it, and my company, and, I think, several other companies in this industry feel the same way about it.

CHIEF POTTER: You stated that in the Augusta case, the Fire Department cooled the tanks; that is exactly what the Fire Department does in buildings. Sprinkler protection is found to be effective in buildings; why wouldn't it be just as sensible to apply to tanks, where you have automatically a cooling of the tanks, and therefore, not tie up the Fire Department?

MR. JOHNSON: There is no question about it being good. Whether or not it is deemed necessary for the powers-to-be, I don't know. I can't contest that a sprinkler tank is the saver tank. I am, frankly, not too conversant on that point, sir.

CHIEF TETREAUULT of Greenfield: When is this odorant added; is it added so there will be safety on the highways?

MR. JOHNSON: Yes, the odorant is added at the refinery, to make the odor recognizable, all of which adds up to about one pound of ethyl mercaptan for 40,000 pounds, or one tank car. It is loaded at the refinery. That is a requirement of the Compressed Gas Association, or the Petroleum Institute, I believe. It must be odorized.



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CHIEF TETREAULT: Is it also an anesthetic?

MR. JOHNSON: No; very little, if any, effect, is had by breathing a normal amount, as long as you get sufficient oxygen with it. There is a hydrocarbon gas, cyclopropane, and I think that it is an anesthetic.

MR. IRWIN: Cyclopropane is also a highly inflammable gas, but it is not used for any other purpose than anesthesia.

MR. JOHNSON: It is related; it is a distant cousin, only they put it together a little differently.

CHIEF TETREAULT: Is it toxic?

MR. JOHNSON: It is not toxic. City gases are toxic.

CHIEF WELLS: I should like to relate to you this that this non-toxic stuff doesn't bear out, because I had two fatals last year, and I also had two severe burns as the result of other fire chiefs' installations and equipment.

What is the attitude of your industry with respect to selling over the counter equipment in a city? What is the attitude of the company, for selling over the counter, Sears-Roebuck, Montgomery-Ward, and having the people bring those things home themselves and installing them?

You might require a permit for every installation. But, how are we going to know whether or not they bring them down from the city and put them in themselves?

We had this case, where two men bought a furnace; they had bottled gas, and they had a stove, and they put in a hot water heater, and a floor furnace. They had finished the hot water heater, and they were sitting there that night, reading and having some talk, and the next morning, they were discovered, both dead. They were found by the coroner, or whoever examined them, to have died of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Now, I would assume that this was incomplete combustion, from lack of ventilation.

MR. JOHNSON: And you are correct.

CHIEF WELLS: Now, you say that propane is not toxic, and that it is quite fair not to say that carbon monoxide will not result from incomplete combustion, when that is, to me, the cause?

I wondered if you folks would encourage their getting in appliances in these stores? Do you have that attitude?

MR. JOHNSON: Yes, we do. Further, let me say that it is the attitude of our industry, the good people in our industry, and every industry has good and bad, not to sell over the counter and to do our own piping and installations.

You are also correct in stating that carbon monoxide can be produced by the incomplete combustion of propane. However, that is not exclusive with propane, because carbon monoxide can be produced by any fuel containing carbon. It is attendant, for instance, with the operation of a coal furnace. It is attendant with the operation of your automobile, and it is attendant with any form of mal-combustion, involving any fuel.

It is true that it also can be produced with our gas. When I say "non-toxic" I refer to the fuel gas in its unburned state. City gases, of course, varying in quantity and quality, contains raw carbon monoxide.

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CHIEF WELLS: But, you do agree that vending is important?

MR. JOHNSON: Vending is of supreme importance, and, recently, in Massachusetts, you have adopted the NFPA pamphlet 52, which outlines vending requirements, and that is something that I am very happy about, as is the rest of the industry, and, presumably you people, because it gives us all something to look at and to go by, whereas before we were running at loose ends, on vending.

I wouldn't say that that writing in pamphlet 52 will immediately bring to a screeching halt all of the violations in Massachusetts, or the balance of New England, but it will help.

We are intensely interested in proper vending, and, incidentally, that is one of the most difficult operations to persuade a customer to indulge in, largely from the standpoint of money. But, we feel that it is extremely important, and we press for vending, and in many cases will not install.

That, at the moment, is fruitless; but, I think that in the future, it will start to help, and the rest of the people in the industry will follow.

A GENTLEMAN: I might say, in connection with that, that whenever they discover that they are already installed and somebody has added to it, they find a violation and they are decent enough to report it, and let us catch up with them. That is a fine thing, and it is fine cooperation that you have.

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you very much. That is Utility Gases, speaking.

A GENTLEMAN: No; I am talking about bottled gas.

MR. JOHNSON: I am sorry.

A GENTLEMAN: We don't have utility gas all over, in pipes. When the installer finds that something has been brought down and has gone wrong, they go down to fix it, and find it is wrong, and they let us know and we get it fixed.

MR. JOHNSON: I am certainly glad that you do that. We try to encourage that. We also do a great deal of training. We hold four or five one-week schools a year, in field training, towards this end that we have been discussing.

CHIEF ADAMS: Is there any way that observers might employ to determine whether or not installations were provided with a spring-loaded release, or otherwise?

MR. JOHNSON: Yes. The spring-loaded release on a cylinder will appear on the cylinder valve, directly at the inlet of the valve. It is a round disc and it looks like the end of a pipe, usually with a seal, holding the screw disc in position. There are holes in it and you can see a spring underneath. That would be a spring-loaded release valve, in the cylinder plug.

The fusible plug may be found in the box of the cylinder, on top. In the case of some cylinders that don't have casts, but have a recessed top, you will find them spotted around the top, maybe as many as six. You will also find them screwed into the bottom of the cylinder.

Many will have both. Some models out have a spring-loaded and a fusible plug screwed into the thing.

CHIEF ADAMS: Are they both visible, with the hood down?

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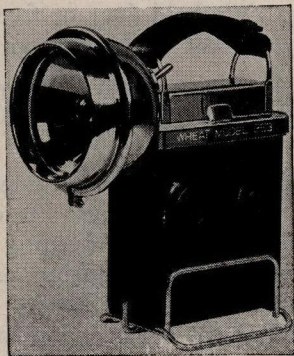
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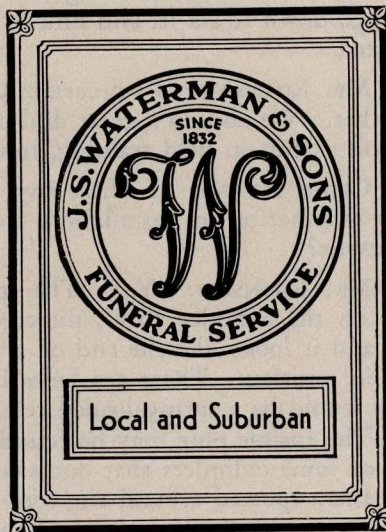
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MR. JOHNSON: None of them are visible with the hood down.

CHIEF ADAMS: Are there any means which your industry ever considered for identifying those things, by some marking that would be visible?

MR. JOHNSON: Other than to identify them as propane cyclinders, no.

CHIEF ADAMS: You made reference to the fact that we shouldn't apply water with a fusible release. I should think that you would go farther than that, by helping to identify the tank, so that it would be visible from a distance. In a good many instances, the firemen go up there at night. And, it seems to me that you could identify, on the outer wall of that tank, with some marking, which would let us know whether or not it was a spring-loaded or fusible plug, or both.

MR. JOHNSON: That would be a tremendous undertaking.

CHIEF ADAMS: It would be a means of protecting us, and you should consider it.

MR. JOHNSON: We are desirous, not only for you people, but for the general public. I, personally, think that the incidence of this situation that you speak about would not warrant the marketing of cylinders; it would be nice, but there are many ramifications that would enter into the accomplishment of such a task.

For instance, cylinder valves are frequently changed, which could change the character of the tank, requiring different markings. They could be changed without the markings, and I think that it would be a physical impossibility for the entire industry to identify as to these valves, particularly if they are to be noted at any great distance, and, as Mr. Jones has just pointed out to me, the trend within the industry is towards spring-loaded releases, and it has been so probably for the past ten years, and the fusible plugs have been minimized.

Further than that, the trend has been to dual relief.

MR. DUFFIN: We had a faulty installation; it was in a summer colony, and on private property, and there was not too much control in the area, there. There was no foundation, there; they had just a cellar bed, for a boiler. They had converted it from a summer home to an all-the-year-round home. This tank was inside the side entrance.

There was a heavy rain, and it slipped underneath the house. How long it had been leaking, nobody knows.

The stage was set. That place was loaded with gas, and to this day, we don't know for sure what the condition really was. We feel that the lady of the house put on an electric light switch. But, as I say, there was only a small pit under the house. Under these summer homes, you have about a two-foot area, and evidently the under side of the house was loaded. She turned the switch and blew the house all over the lot. The roof came down and that was the only thing left.

Fortunately, both of these people lived, but it is just a miracle that they did. It pulled out all the doors of the surrounding homes in the area. The woman is still convalescing and I believe that that was fully six months ago. The child, fortunately, was sitting there in an easy chair, watching television, and the chair broke the wall.

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It is the sort of a case that you are apt to get in these summer colonies, where there is not too much supervision.

However, I believe that under your specifications they call for a base of cement.

MR. JOHNSON: Yes, they call for a base, but not of cement; other forms are suitable. It calls for a suitable base, and they formerly spelled out what materials, but, now, I think that it is termed "adequate" or "suitable" or something of that nature.

MR. DUFFIN: In that area, as I say, it is privately owned, and there are approximately 350 homes, there. We would like to make each and every one of them put in a cement base.

MR. JOHNSON: Do you mean a poured-in concrete foundation?

MR. DUFFIN: Yes.

MR. JOHNSON: I am informed that the current Massachusetts rules are the same as the prior rules, spelling out treated wood, asphalt plank, concrete slab, and two or three other acceptable bases.

The error in the case that you just outlined, of course, is negligence, carelessness of the installer, or with the individual, if he happened to put it in.

MR. DUFFIN: The individual home owner, in that particular case, because they didn't put a foundation in the pit area for the boilers, underneath the house.

MR. JOHNSON: In other words, they allowed it to cave in, and even had there been a base, you probably would have entertained the same difficulty.

MR. DUFFIN: There is a possibility of that, yes.

MR. JOHNSON: Was the leak occasioned by the weight of the cylinder on the connection?

MR. DUFFIN: That is right.

PRESIDENT FORTIER: If there are no further question, I want to thank Mr. Johnson for his very interesting talk.

Next, I am going to call upon Mr. Edward C. Drake, Assistant Personnel Director, Factory Mutual Engineering Division, Boston, Massachusetts, and his subject is: "Industrial Fire Hazards." Mr. Drake!

MR. EDWARD C. DRAKE: Mr. President and Members of the Association. This meeting reminds me very much of a church meeting; come early and get the back seats. Everybody is up back there, and it makes it a little difficult to get at you!

It reminds me of the story they tell about Pat Hooley, who came from the old country. One day, many years afterwards, he came home from church, and you know, he had a wild look in his eye. He seemed to be terrifically exhilarated and his wife looked at him, while fixing the roast in the oven, and she said:

"O Lord, has Pat gone out and got himself a couple of drinks? Where did he get it today?"

So she went into the living room and she gave him the old swoop affair, the main purpose of which is to find out whether he had anything on his breath.

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"Well, all right. Today, it happened."

"What happened?"

He said: "I was going in to church. And you know how I have worked. When I came over from the old country, I was down in the ditch, and boy, they really gave it to me. I worked hard, and I got up in the ditch, a ways, and it was a little less. Then, I got to be the foreman, and so it was 'Mr. Hooley.' Then, I got to be the Superintendent, and was Superintendent Hooley. And so, a little bit later, I got ideas, and I ran for the City Council, and I got elected, and I was Councilman Hooley. Then, later I got to be an Alderman and it was Alderman Hooley, and finally, it was Mayor Hooley. And then it happened."

And she still asked: "What happened?"

"Well, this morning, just as I was going in church, I heard the organ playing and the choir singing, 'Hooley, Hooley, Hooley, Lord, God Almighty,' and every one stood up!" (Laughter.)

Well, I see the intensity with which you men go after the speakers, here, and make them prove their point, and it scares me a little bit.

It is much like the story of the old sea dog, who had a parrot, and he had taught the parrot some pretty good things. Anyway, he retired, and the first morning of his retirement, just at six o'clock in the morning, he heard this:

"Reveille! Reveille!"

He got out, and said: "Cut it out, now; I'm retired, so that now, I can sleep in the morning."

But, the next morning, at six o'clock, the parrot gave out again, with: "Reveille, Reveille, Reveille!"

So he got up again, and he said:

"Now, look, this is the last morning I want to hear that. I'm retired, now, remember? Any more of that, and you will go out in the hen coop with the chickens."

The next morning, as this parrot couldn't seem to learn, it was the same thing:

"Reveille, Reveille, Reveille."

So he grabbed the parrot by the neck and took it out to the chickens. Back he went, to go to sleep again. He had a wonderful sleep. Then, when he got up, he had his breakfast. Everything was so quiet, that he wondered what happened to the parrot. So he went out to the hen coop, and there were fourteen white hens lined up there in front, and right in back of them, there was one Rhode Island Red, who was plucked clean of his feathers.

So the parrot was giving orders:

"Up on the roost! When I say the order of the day, it calls for the white uniform. It's the white uniform!" (Laughter.)

It's fine to tell stories. It relieves the tension a little bit, and I had better watch the clock, because I'll be running too far away from my subject.

What I want to speak about today is some information that we have been preparing for release, from the standpoint of our company. I am happy to

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It is with a great deal of pleasure and gratitude that we have been permitted to participate in your program.

Our experience with fires comes about in many ways, and, like all the insurance industry, our experience is burned into us, so to speak.

In evaluating fire cases, we go to great lengths to try to find out the exact cause of the fire, so that in the training of our men, we can give them a real, true picture, in order to have them find out and ferret out the hazards, as they go through the large, industrial plants.

Some of the things that we find amaze us, because we know how clever and how well industry does the job. On many occasions, we, too, have found it necessary to come to you Fire Chiefs, to get something done, which even the powerful insurance companies find impossible.

And so we do feel, with you, a very kindred sense of responsibility to the people we serve.

We find that electrical fires are the greatest causes of fire in our work. We find that the electrical hazards are the ones that cause the most trouble, and, in some ways, the most insidious, because they cannot be found readily.

For example, you and I know, in most instances many of the fires caused through electrical purposes are the catch-all fires, those you cannot put your finger on, and perhaps it may be through wiring or some other thing like that. But, the strange part of it is that we find, from very exhaustive examination of our losses, that it is true.

As we go through plants, we find that the review and the examination of the plants seems to indicate to us that when it comes to poor wiring, we have the central, focal point of all the hazards, which we first have to look at.

That is No. 1.

There are a number of hazards. But, under the electrical group, there are many different phases. For example, the improper installation and maintenance of an electrical system is to use the prime fire hazard, because from it, stem all the other things.

In other words, you have heard a particularly lucid and a fine exposition on LP Gases. We have done a great deal on LP Gases ourselves. In 90 per cent of the time, these LP Gases are perfectly all right, unless they are involved in a fire, and that is particularly true in the larger installations. So that that is only one item, and that is in the matter of electrical fires.

I am going to read some of the things about defective wiring.

The fact that it has helped the list of electrical hazards is not news to us, and it is not surprising in view of the extensive use of wiring systems of all kinds.

Wiring systems are exposed to excessive heat, oil, coal, vibration, moisture, all sorts of mechanical breakdowns, and abrasions, and yet the amazing thing

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is that we don't have more trouble with them, and from them. They are severely abused.

And, all of us have gone into homes and have seen cords, and we have gone into plants and seen things that have shocked us. And yet, the men who are good production men, alert and active, know about these things. There are short circuits, or grounds, due to installation breakdowns, and these cause many fires, and they are a hazard. They are not always visible. It isn't always easy to go through and find them.

Our men, in a very elementary way, are told to check the fuse panels, to check the motors, to check the equipment, as they go through.

I know that in textile mills, for example, as we go through, there used to be the old idea that you could walk through and tap a few motors or looms, and that made up the story of inspection. Since those days, however, we have gone ahead and asked the manufacturers to develop better fuse panels, better motors, better electrical equipment, on looms and textile equipment.

And, that same carry-over has gone into all the realms. We have the explosion proof motors, which we use in inflammable liquids, and in areas where gas concentrations are present.

And so it is with time and temperature; they are two principal enemies of the installation, on these wiring systems. They, too, have their own part in adding to the trouble coming from electrical fires.

It would be easy to run through some of the hazards that you find. There are the motors and generators. And, while in generating equipment particularly, it isn't a great factor, it is a common factor, not from the standpoint of numbers, but the losses are great, and the dislocation of industry and the normal pursuits of life are tremendous.

Then, of course, that same statement may be made verbatim for transformer fires. We see a few of them that do much damage.

But, again, the use and occupancy phase, or the phase of interruption in the ordinary pursuits of life, is tremendous.

Then, of course, you know, yourselves, the problem of switches, and controls of all kinds. There may be faulty terminals, lack of bushings, resulting in frayed insulations. And the first thing you know, you have a fire. From these things stem fires, frequently, because hot filaments and hot spots drop into combustibles.

It seems that in some plants, not in the better ones, that the areas right underneath a panel box, or an open switch or something of that kind, seem to be the finest place to put the old cartons, empty, or to be removed by the waste collectors. And then the electrical system in general gets in trouble.

You know, and it seems that the more and more we get of electrical equipment, the more and more possibility there is of getting into this trouble business.

You men are in a better position than we are to know about these things, because as the wide-spread use of electricity becomes more and more a factor in our lives, you are more aware of it.

In the plant, and in industry, where we are familiar, we find it to be a parallel experience, and so our men, as they go through our training course,

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are trained to bear down on the electrical hazards, and ferret them out as much as possible by making sure that the maintenance in the plant is sufficient to overcome the other hazards.

Now, it is interesting to note that many of the cement plants have a theory; they never service their motors of electrical equipment, feeling that when it breaks down, they will replace it, because the cost, on the one hand, as bearing against the cost of maintenance, about equalizes from the standpoint of simple economics. And so they let their motors burn themselves out.

Occasionally, of course, they do have a fire, but not of any great consequence, because in those areas, the combustibles are limited.

But, the same fallacy and the same thinking in other industries are sometimes catastrophic, and we have been in on them, unfortunately.

In our position as fire prevention engineers, we have not been able to sell the management on the idea of proper and complete maintenance.

There are a number of fire cases which we find more important, and I just want to hit on those, because time is running short, and then the other one is this business of cutting and welding.

You probably know, as I do, that the cutting and welding fires present a great problem. In many other ways, in well-regulated plants, there will creep in the outside contractor, or the thoughtless person who occasionally thinks he is going to do a small job, but without the proper protection, and they will go up there to do a little bit of welding, or to change something a little bit.

For example, as you well know, some of the elements in the starting of the fire at Levonia, last year, were by the use of this welding. The plant had shut down early, and the outside contractor thought that that was a fine time to get in there and do a bit of welding. The fact that he was doing welding over rust preventing compound, at around 100 degrees, didn't make any difference to him. And while the employees, well-trained and with proper equipment, tried to save the plant, it was impossible, and the results, as you know, were tremendous, in that fire that ran into many millions of dollars, one of the largest that we have ever had.

All through our experience, we have been beset with the problem of cutting and welding fires. They are, we feel, one of the biggest hazards in industry today. It is a fast way of doing work, and a good way of doing it, if you take the proper safeguards. It is up to the insurance interests, and you men, as you visit these plants, to stress the fact that certain safeguards are to be used, and that there should be some official who is responsible, and who knows what is going on, who should be there to do the job right, and to see that the proper protection is taken. It is a thing that can be handled right.

I might say that there are many plants, and I could name several of our larger American industrial plants, who have practically wiped out cutting and welding fires by complete and good controls.

And, speaking about cutting and welding fires, I might say that the more insidious of these fires, as a class, barring this one that happened at Levonia, is in warehouses. Usually, they are not well attended; the stock is piled high. It may not be too high, but I mean in relation to the floor, the stock is piled above a man's eye vision, and the net result is that sparks will go all over the area.

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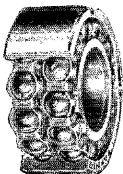
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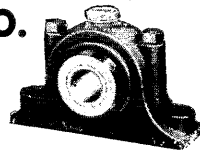


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And, instead of going into the areas where storage of any kind is, the men go in there and they spread one trapaulin, and they may have one man, and he may or may not be a good fire watcher. It goes along, and sometime afterwards, a spark has done some damage, and frequently, it is too late.

So that in storehouses in particular, when you go into them, we feel that you should stress the idea of the danger that can come from illicit or, you might say, widespread carelessness in the matter of industrial and cutting and welding fires.

We have other phases of cutting and welding fires. For example, there is the cutting and welding around tanks, used for inflammable liquid. There are areas where there are dust collectors and that sort of thing. And, these things are important, because many times they cause untold damage, where, instead of going through and following the time-honored practice of filling the tanks with water, or carefully watching them go out, or doing the other things which can be done, the men do not do that, and the net result is that we have trouble.

So that the cutting and welding fires are important, I don't want to take too long on these; but, frankly, there are too many of them.

The next particular group that I want to speak about in the matter of fire hazards are those that result from a chemical origin. Actually, these chemicals may come in contact with other materials. Then, there are the unstable chemicals, which decompose at room temperatures.

Many chemical processes, particularly those involved in the organic materials, require very careful regulation. Unless the temperatures, pressures, the quantity and quality of the ingredients are properly controlled, fire explosions do result. These accidents occur in laboratories, in the test tubes, beakers and flasks, and in the plant processing equipment. They are the focal spots for our attention, as we go through the plants.

The fires and explosions which have occurred in kettles and digestors, stills and autoclaves and that sort of thing are ones which can be prevented, and they can be prevented by proper supervision.

And, as you can see, there is so much of all of this fire prevention effort that comes back directly to supervision, the supervision of the human element, or, frankly, to put it another way, it is the failure of the human element to appreciate the tremendous hazard which they have at their finger tips, much in the same way that many of us, when we are seated behind the wheel of a nice new car which has a 165 or 195 horse-power engine, we don't really know the potential we have for destruction. And, the production people don't recognize the terrific hazard, the potential for destruction, and that is where it comes in.

There is also the confinement hazard, in the matter of some pharmaceuticals, including the amino compounds. We have a case where some of these amino compounds were being processed in a steel, glass-lined reactor, and this uncontrolled reactor caused an explosion, and the building was damaged.

I have many other cases that I could tell you about, but I couldn't even pronounce some of these things on the list, here; I don't even know what they are. I took chemistry in school; we all did. But, I believe that these men working with these things should be informed and they must be aware of the possibilities that they have. They must look further than just immediate

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use of them and the production. They should bring in their production people and their manufacturing people and get them into the frame of mind where they will insist that these things be protected, and that it be done in the proper manner and handled in the proper manner.

In addition to accidents such as these that I have noted, there may be the flammable liquid or vapors, in excess from the processing equipment, over open flames.

You have had quite a long dissertation this morning about LP Gases, which are proving so valuable in one sense, and yet in a number of fires where we are having trouble, we find them.

Right now, many people are becoming concerned about the use of natural gas, because of the incidence of a number of blow-ups. To us, in New England, it seems as if it is something new. We had a recent one in Cambridge. But, out through the middle west, they have had them for some time, and they have developed a manner of thinking about them, and so they accept them as a natural part of the thing.

There, too, they have gone on to Troy to secure the proper type of entrance to the air space, underneath these buildings, which are so prevalent in the southwest area, and the protection of the inlet, and the fact that the equipment has to come up above the ground levels, so that there can be no build up of the gases in that air space, which, subsequently, can be ignited by open pilots or flames of any kind.

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We have had an experience in a midwestern city, within several years, of a dust explosion, in a candy plant, if you will, where the cornstarch came in suspension and created a dust cloud in the room itself, with people working there. What caused it? Again, we believe that an electrical spark caused an explosion of sufficient force to kill many people, and to do a terrific amount of damage and to dislocate the production of that company, for many, many months.

The net result is that all of these things are the salient hazards, and these, in particular, are the things that we have to look for, when we are going through the plants.

We, in keeping with other inspection agencies of our type, try to work with you men, trying to get you to come into the plants where we are insured, and to add to our efforts, your efforts, backed as they are in so many cases with the laws of the various States, because, together, we can do a great deal to foster the safety and reduce the hazards and reduce the results in loss of life and property.

Now, the loss of life would be sufficiently important, if there were no other factor involved, and that is the one thing I know you men are working for. I know that is one thing we are all working for.

In recapitulation, here are a few of the things we want to watch out for. Mechanical sparks in areas, should not be permitted.

Regarding the matches and smoking, of course, many of our inspection bureaus have done much work with you, to liberalize the smoking regulations so that people can smoke, whenever and wherever it is safe to do so. And,



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with that idea in mind, you are getting away from the sneak-smoke, which has caused much trouble over the years.

Then, there is the spontaneous ignition, which should not be forgotten.

There is also the matter of static, and the proper ventilation, and that sort of thing, which has been pretty well taken care of over the years.

The industrial hazards are becoming fewer and fewer, as better equipment, better fire fighting and prevention go hand-in-hand, to make American industry safer, from the standpoint of fires and explosions.

In closing, I know that you men, in your communities, have always had pretty much the same story as we have have had. When we go to inspect an area in some of the larger cities, we hear

"Oh, my gracious, but we're inspected to death."

And when you fellows go around to inspect, you pick up the same thing. You are always the last to get the newer fire kits, and a raise. And, many of us have the same complaint. Why we stay at it, I don't know.

Back in 1936, a friend of mine went on a visit, and sent me a card which seems to me to typify our whole attitude, those of us in the fire prevention and fire protection business; here it is

"Notice: We have been in business since 1900, and we have been pleasing and displeasing the public ever since. We have been cussed and discussed, boycotted, lied about, talked about, hung up, held up, and the only reason we are staying in business is to see what the hell is going to happen next!"

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT FORTIER: Thank you very much, Mr. Drake.

Our next speaker is Dr. Carl W. Irwin of Bangor, Maine, who is going to take as his subject this morning, "Occupational Disability."

Dr. Irwin! (Applause.)

DR. CARL W. IRWIN: Mr. President, and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Association. On a hot day like this, there are only three things that I can talk about that would be of interest to you, and the first of these is Health.

So that, Ladies and Gentlemen, this talk will include some information about health.

Secondly, it will include something about Money; we never have enough of it.

And third, we can talk about Sex.

Now, I have struggled with this thing for weeks, and I still can't think of anything to say about Sex which applies to occupational disease!

Now, as always, in discussing occupational disease with fire fighters, we have a great deal of information that must be obtained, in order to decide what we are talking about.

First of all, we have the question as to whether this is a primary or a secondary disease. In other words, if this thing that happened, or would this disability have occurred, if the individual were not a fire fighter? Is it something that existed and is only secondarily involved as an occupational disability, or is it a primary thing that happens only because of the specific occupation?

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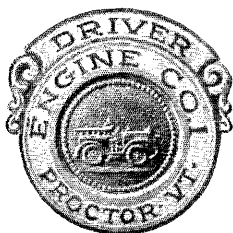
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Among the primary occupational disabilities of firemen, of course, you think of things such as burns, suffocation, and the possibility of certain lung conditions.

Among the secondary disabilities, there is the question of aggravation of heart disease, and the question of aggravation of tuberculosis. There is also the question of aggravation of such things as arthritis.

In other words, we are dealing with the primary things that are basic, or secondary disabilities which may be aggravated by the fire service.

In classifying our occupational disabilities, we have another very definite classification rule that we must fit these into. Do we have an injury, or do we have a disease?

That seems like a nice, straightforward, sort of distinction, but many times there is a definite question as to which is responsible for the disability.

Going on to further classification, and this is important in medico-legal work, there is this question:

Was it an avoidable disability, or was it something that just had to happen?

Was it something that was brought on by carelessness, or somebody's negligence? Or, was it something that would have happened to the individual, regardless of any precautions that may have been taken?

In the classification of disability, we have another problem, which must be decided in medico-legal work, and it is this:

Is this a temporary disability? Is it something that the individual is going to get over completely, or is it a permanent one?

There, again, it seems to be a nice, straightforward thing, until you remember that certain of these occupational diseases and hazards leave lasting scars that can result in added disability for months or years after the original disability.

Finally, in our classification scheme, we must decide whether the disability is partial or total, whether the person can do the work he was originally able to do, or whether he can be fitted into some other kind of work so that he is only partially disabled?

Now, Gentlemen, we get to the meat of the whole problem, in a discussion of occupational disability.

First of all, what is disability?

The most common, of course, is the respiratory difficulty, as evidenced, first of all, by the fireman overcome by smoke, or even more commonly, the man who is nauseated, vomiting, for he has a disability directly related to his fire fighting experience.

However, respiratory disease and disability go a lot further than that. As, for example, with the question of the relationship, or constant or intermittent smoke inhalation, to such disease as tuberculosis.

Now, it is very hard to prove to a Compensation Commission or an insurance carrier that because a person has tuberculosis, he should receive disability payments on the basis of aggravation of that condition. Tuberculosis can be aggravated by smoke and fumes, and it must be considered as an occupational disease in that particular sense.

There has been a great deal of discussion lately about the relationship of lung irritants to cancer, and there is a great deal of question about that.

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We do not have the answer to that problem. In the future, we may be able to say: "Yes, this cancer is the result of, or was aggravated by the occupational activities of the individual."

Circulatory disability? Sure! Last night, I was talking with one of the Chiefs, here, who was talking about the relationship of heart disease to the fire-fighting profession. It is my personal feeling that there is a very definite correlation.

As we go on with this little discussion, you will find that I am a great believer in preventive medicine, and in preventing these things from happening.

I do not believe that the function of being a fireman makes him have heart disease. I think that it is a preexisting condition, and I think that it is a thing that can only be a secondary disability. It is not something that is the direct result of fire fighting activity.

On the other hand, a person with a circulatory heart disease can easily get into trouble, as a result of his fire-fighting; if he is not aware of his underlying disability, then exposure to the excessive stress and strain may result in severe circulatory disease, or even death.

Neurologic Disease? Yes; any one who is overcome by carbon monoxide gas may have a lot of neurologic abnormalities; there may be some trouble in thinking and in reasoning, or there may be some paralysis. All of those things may result from carbon monoxide poisoning.

And there are other neurologic abnormalities that are largely related to the toxic substances, such as drugs, chemicals and fumes to which you are exposed.

And as distinguished from the neurologic, we have the psychiatric abnormalities.

Now, the life of a fireman is a strenuous one; but, it is only intermittently strenuous. There are many demands made upon him. He must be capable of emergency activity, and that applies as well to the mental as to the physical side of his capabilities.

Psychiatric abnormalities will go all the way from the simple confining to quarters to the sudden stresses and stresses of fire calls, to frank psychosis, as a result of the type of life that he has to lead.

Orthopedic: Bone and joints. The orthopedic phase of it, of course, ordinarily pertains to accidents incurred in the line of duty, but it can also involve certain things, such as arthritis, bursitis, the so-called house-maid's knee, and things of that sort.

So that the orthopedic abnormality is a very definite possibility as an occupational disability.

Skin Disease. The common thing is the possibility of burns. And also, among the skin diseases, there are the allergies, the disabilities that result from exposure to drugs and chemicals.

So that we have now answered the question, as to "What"; What Disabilities there are?

Going on to another, we find this: "Why?"

This brings us to a rather important phase of our discussion, because first of all, the most common "Why" answer is the person himself, the one involved in the accident or disability.

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Now, if you saw a man recklessly rush into a burning building; and obviously, into a fire that was too much for him, with his carbon tetrachloride extinguisher, you would say that he was a fool to risk his life, to do something that he couldn't do.

And yet, how often you may have seen a Fire Chief, 59 or 60 years old and a little bit on the fat side, puffing when he climbs a hill, whose ankles swell occasionally, rushing around at a fire? That man is just as liable to become disabled as the foolish individual who rushes into a burning building, unnecessarily. That man has heart disease, and he should be taking care of himself. He is just as guilty of negligence and stupidity as the individual who does something that is obviously foolish.

And, the same thing applies to a man who stays in the Fire Department when, for physical or emotional reasons, he should not be in the department.

Personal error, foolishness, stupidity—those are the things that account for most of our cases of occupational disability.

In spite of the fact that the fire service is a dangerous one, most of us over a period of years learn to protect ourselves from the common patterns.

Now, the mental attitude of this person is largely responsible for this. He feels that he must be able to keep up with the younger men; he must show that he has "guts" and that he is a man. He must go ahead and rush in on these things, when he should be looking out for himself.

In addition, under the mental phase of this, we have the problem of poor training, of inadequate training, of inadequate screening from a mental standpoint, of the individuals working in the fire service. The physical disabilities, I have already mentioned. The individual who is not physically equipped, either in the sense of his own physical being, or his equipment, has no business doing things that may result in disability.

Now, the things that I am saying, today, apply not only to the big departments, but they apply just as well to the small, voluntary departments, and I am very much convinced that the training aspect should apply possibly even more to the smaller departments.

Now, a person who is poorly equipped, from a training standpoint, will become a hazard. Training is very important, and I think that it deserves equal prominence with the physical and mental state of the fireman who is a potential casualty.

I have mentioned, equipment, previously, as contributing to this disability. The equipment must be kept up; it must be suitable for the demands made upon the men, and those demands must be in accordance with the capabilities of the equipment.

The failure of a single, small piece of equipment may be even more important than the failure of a piece of major apparatus. You may be able to get along without an extra pump at a fire, but you cannot get along without a flash light, if it goes haywire and if you are in a smoke-filled building, and need it to save your life.

The maintenance of equipment, whether major or minor, is absolutely of importance, in the fire service.

Last, and I think, actually the least, is the situation.

In answering "Why" as to disability, the situation is almost never at fault. It is almost always the individual or his equipment that fails. It is not the

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situation that causes disabilities. Sure, there are exceptions. There is that unexpected fall; there are the stairways that burn out and you are not aware of it. Generally speaking, however, if the person is mentally alert, physically well equipped and well-trained, and has adequate equipment, the situation is under control, and does not contribute to the disability.

There are other questions that must be answered from a medico-legal standpoint, that I want to mention, because they are self-evident.

The "when" is important; the "where" is important, and the "How" is important, there, from the medico-legal standpoint.

From our standpoint, the first two are far more important than the "When" and the "Where" and "How" because those are the things that lead to the prevention of disability, rather than the settlement in a claim court.

I promised you at the beginning of the talk that we would talk about health, as one phase of this occupational disability. The point that I want to bring out, now, are those that lead to the prevention of occupational disability, rather than applying particularly to treatment, or things of that sort.

Most important of all is the health examination. In many cities and in many villages, the initial health examination of a Fire Department recruit is very sketchy. The man goes to a city physician, who says

"Are you healthy?"

"Yes, I'm fine," replies the man.

"All right. You pass."

Now, it varies all the way from that, to a really adequate examination, before admission to the fire service.

Ideally, an initial physical examination, before and after he is even considered for the fire service, should include a complete physical, a certain amount of psychiatric examination, an aptitude test, and, from a physical standpoint, x-rays of the chest, to make sure that we have not missed pulmonary tuberculosis, with other studies of a simple nature to make sure we haven't missed some of the more common blood diseases. To have a urinalysis goes without saying, because a patient with a diabetes probably never should be accepted in the fire service.

Then, there is the question of probation, particularly in small departments. Now, the term "probation" is just a term, and it means nothing more than that. Probation should be a real thing, and individuals found mentally or physically unsuited for the fire service should be dropped. There is no question about that. A probation period is absolutely essential.

Then, at the completion of his probation period, again there should be a physical examination carried out, because many things can turn up in six months that will bar this individual from becoming a regular fireman, either volunteer or paid, and an examination should be repeated.

Now, I will keep insisting upon this necessity for examination, from time to time. My own feeling is that any man in the fire service is entitled to a physical examination, including a chest x-ray, at least once a year. And, if that is done adequately, and the results are evaluated properly, we can prevent a large percentage of the occupational disabilities that plague the fire service.

And again, Gentlemen, I bring up the subject of training, because a trained individual is a healthy, capable, competent individual. Without training, he

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is nothing. Without training, his health is in constant jeopardy, because he slips up on the important things that matter at the scene of a fire.

That training does not mean a period of six months before he goes into the fire service; it is a matter of constant training. It is something that you Chiefs have talked about many times. It is a continuous program, in order to keep these training programs at the peak of their efficiency, and thus reduce the hazards of health that go with poor training and poor maintenance of individuals.

And again, the question of equipment comes up, from the personal and, from the safety standpoint.

When I first started fighting fires, twenty years ago, the respiratory equipment consisted of a face mask, which was actually nothing more than a dust mask. We now have respiratory equipment, asbestos suits, adequate helmets, coats and boots. Those things are so important, and can mean so much in reducing the disability in your own departments.

We now come to two things that many of you will not agree with me about, things that I am looking at from the standpoint of the non-chief, rather than the Chief.

First of all, there is the absolute necessity for the re-assignment of people who are found unable to carry out the arduous jobs required in active fire-fighting.

In a large fire-fighting organization, that is of no real significance. You can take a Captain or a Lieutenant out of his Company and put him on the switchboard or something like that, or the Fire Alarm Headquarters, or put him on inspections, and thus give him a job that does not involve very active work.

In a small department, it is a very significant problem, and one that has to be evaluated in the light of the local conditions. However, if at all possible, re-assignment should be carried out, periodically, as necessary, and as based on physical examination of the individual and his performance at first. The re-assignment should carry no loss in grade or rank; yet, it is incurred as a result of fire-fighting activity. And it is important to take these people who are found wanting on physical examination, and place them in jobs where they can do a good job and still not become disabled. It is much cheaper in the long run, to take a man off his active job, and put him on a more sedentary one, than to lose the man entirely. By losing one by occupational disability, you lose not only the money involved in a pension, but you lose a well-trained man who should be of value to you.

The subject of retirement is a sore one, particularly among the chief officers. The reason for that many of you have put in fifteen, twenty or thirty years in a department. It is hard for you to realize that you are getting past your thirties, and it may be time for you to retire. Gentlemen, this is a personal thing, as far as you are concerned. But, take my advice, and go to your family doctor, or to your Department surgeon, and have him check you over to see whether you have heart or lung disease; see whether you are really capable of maintaining the state of health that is necessary for your job.

Now, it is difficult for you to realize, I know, that you may not be capable, physically or mentally, of carrying out your work; but, somebody's opinion

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other than your own is necessary. You cannot take the word of your Deputy Chiefs. They may have an axe to grind, and they may say:

"Yes, the old so-and-so; he'd better get out."

And some of your particular friends may say:

"Yes, he's doing a fine job, just like he did in 1900."

But, in any event, it is a personal thing for you and the members of your command, because the problem of retirement comes to all of us, sooner or later, and it is better to retire gracefully and live to be ninety than it is to retire and have a lot of flowers strewn over your grave, because you did not retire when you should have done so.

I promised you gentlemen that we would also talk about another interesting subject, the problem of money.

Where is it coming from?

Let us suppose you are disabled, in the line of duty. Maybe there is a question as to whether it is in the line of duty. Where is the money coming from to pay your hospital bills, medical bills, and allow you to go to the Super-market once in a while and get a bit of food?

That money may come from several sources, and obviously, from compensation.

Gentlemen, for the past few months, I have been reading the Compensation Laws of the New England States, with particular reference to the Fire Department, and I want to say to you that they are contradictory, loosely written, inaccurate and inadequate.

I would strongly suggest that you, as Chiefs, read the laws, as they apply to you.

How many of you have actually read the Compensation Laws in your own States? Very few of you, by your hands.. It is easy to get a copy. New York State will charge you 85-cents; the rest of them are free. Simply write to your Compensation Commission, and they will send you a copy of the laws, as they pertain to you. Read them. You will be surprised, as to what is not covered by your Compensation Laws.

In Maine, we are very fortunate, in that our Compensation Commission is quite fire-conscious; they are quite generous, I think, in deciding which disabilities are related to fire-fighting activities. But, it should be spelled out in words, as to what compensation a fireman is entitled to, and how he goes about getting it. So, get a copy of your local Compensation Laws, and read them.

Certain cities carry compensation insurance of one sort or another. Get a copy and see how much coverage you actually have. Many of these laws were written years ago. The financial aspects of them pertained to living some ten or fifteen years ago. Those laws are not adequate, now.

So that if there is only one thing that I can get you gentlemen to do, I hope it is this: Get a copy of the laws; read them, and then do something about the situation, through your State Associations, or through this Association. If you do that, all of this talk about money will be of some value to you, and it will be of some concrete value in the future.

As I have said, there are certain cities which carry specific insurance. Some other Fire Departments are covered by the so-called Group Insurance.

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How many of the Fire Chiefs, here, have the so-called Group Insurance? It is usually applied to the smaller departments, but some of the larger departments do have it.

I would again urge that you read your policies and see what they offer; read the small print. Most insurance policies are well written, and you get what you pay for, so long as you deal with a reputable company. But, read your policy and see if it is adequate for your present-day circumstances. See that it actually covers your disabilities that I have mentioned to you, the respiratory and lung diseases, and the heart diseases. Make sure that the policy applies to those matters, and not just to the fellow who breaks his leg by falling from a 30-foot ladder, coming down from the second floor.

In other words, make sure that it applies to the situation as it may exist in your own Department.

Then, too, personal insurance is very important, because of the fact that the Group Plans, and the compensation covering all of these things may be inadequate to cover your actual needs. There are very few compensation plans that will offer you enough to live on.

Most of you Chiefs make a fairly decent salary, although not a tremendous one, but it is enough to live on, comfortably. Could you live on the amount that your compensation would offer to you?

The compensation in the State of Maine runs around \$25.00 a week. Would you like to live on that?

So check on the question of personal insurance for yourself and, also, if the people in your unit should ask you about it, then you can talk to them about it and discuss it; but, make sure that they read the policies and make sure that they are adequately covered.

And now, Gentlemen, this is the last chart of the lot, entitled "Sex." Gentlemen, I looked and looked about, because I wanted to find something to talk to you about on this subject. Finally, I made this chart, and so I just say to you now: "This is the end!" (Applause.)

PRESIDENT FORTIER: Our next speaker is Massachusetts State Representative Howard S. Russell, a Member of the Recess Commission on Fire Safety in Nursing Homes, Hospitals and Institutions, and his subject this morning is "Life and Fire Safety in Convalescent Homes."

Representative Russell! (Applause.)

REPRESENTATIVE HOWARD S. RUSSELL: Mr. President, Members of this Association, their Guests and Friends.

It is a pleasure for me to have a chance to be with you at your Conference today, and to talk to the Fire Chiefs from all over New England, and perhaps a few from outside, about a very important subject.

I am not going to tell you any funny stories, because the subject that I am going to talk to you about is anything but funny. It is very important to each of you, and it is important to your Association, and to your cities and towns, and to you personally, that matters be handled properly, and I refer to the fire safety matter in institutions, such as nursing and convalescent homes and boarding homes and hospitals and matters of that kind, which are growing so rapidly all over this area at the present time.

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You Fire Chiefs have no problem more difficult than the protection of the 40,000 to 50,000 people who are passing their last, slow days in the multitudinous nursing, convalescent, and boarding homes for the aged, and in the city and town infirmaries of New England. In the same buildings, looking after these patients, there must be at least 7,500 more staff employees, who also look to you for protection.

With reference to the institutions for the aged, just exactly how many of these places there are, and how many folks are in them, nobody quite knows. The figure I have just used of 40,000 to 50,000 is just a guess. In Massachusetts alone, at the last count, there were 735 licensed convalescent homes, and 856 boarding homes, with an approximate total of 22,320 patients. One such boarding home houses 276 patients, as many as the entire population of some of our smaller New England towns. For the whole of New England, you can double these Massachusetts figures, as I did in my estimate of 40,000 to 50,000.

But, aside from the licensed institutions, there are unlicensed bootleg homes, we hear, and beyond all these, there must be hundreds, probably thousands of smaller homes with only two to four patients apiece, that are outside the purview of our licensing system altogether. So that you can add another 20,000 to the 50,000 I mentioned before, if you want to include them all.

However, the number of such institutions, and of their patients, grows steadily, month by month.

Of the people who run these boarding and nursing homes, a substantial proportion are of the highest type, such as doctors, experienced nurses, competent middle-aged women with capital. Under such a management, the patients get adequate, sympathetic, loving care.

Another type of management is in the business purely for profit, but nevertheless may run high-grade institutions.

A few of the owners, I am sorry to say, are completely unfit by character and disposition to care for elderly people, or anybody else, and their establishments are unfit, also.

The respectable houses and the public officials concerned, want to see to it that these are cleaned up, or cleaned out. Not only the legislative commission on which I am now serving, and on which Chief Kimball has been serving, but you Fire Chiefs, are among the public officials for whom this cleanup is a necessary duty.

Now, let us look at the patients. Not all of these folks are old, but most of them are, for their average age is 71. Some of them are spry, and in good health, and could get out of a burning building on their own. Many are senile; many are ill. Large numbers of them are bed-ridden and helpless. They cannot move, in case of fire; they must be moved. And, to quote Roy Beaudry, head of the Inspection Division of our Massachusetts Department of Public Safety, most of these patients "could not negotiate stairways or fire escapes, especially in the midst of smoke, gas or flames."

As to who pays for them, there is a certain proportion of these people who are in these places, voluntarily. In some instances, they or their families pay their way. Some have relatives who are thoughtful of them. Often, their relatives are merely anxious to get the folks out of the way.

The bulk of them are placed in homes by public officials, and the general public pays for their keep. Most of these public officials are humane, if some-

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what skeptical persons. They do their best to see that their charges are well cared for and as happy as may be.

Many of the taxpayers, who foot the bills, while normally well intentioned, are chiefly interested in keeping the costs of welfare cases down. They wouldn't, intentionally, see any of the old folks burn, but they wouldn't, voluntarily, I fear, authorize a boarding allowance liberal enough to include the thousands of dollars that sprinklers cost. It is easier and costs less to take a chance that no fire will happen.

Therefore, all of these elderly, ill and helpless folks, and the numerous attendants who care for them, become the deep concern of the Fire Chief. If, in his own house and home, some fool smokes in bed and burns himself to death, the chief puts out the fire, the relatives bury the corpse with tears, but everybody feels that the victim had only himself to blame. But if, in an institution with forty inmates, a patient sets his bed in flames, the fire chief is likely, in many cases, to be faced not only with a tough fire, but with some nasty questions as to why it is that so many helpless people lost their lives.

And, if you don't think that this is something to make a Chief lose sleep nights, just listen to these instances of such fires, taken from the National Fire Protection Association records of the past eight years. Here they are:

Tallman, New York Convalescent Home, 6 dead
 Omaha Home for the Aged, 8 dead
 Republic, Michigan, Home for Aged, 3 dead
 Nicolette, West Virginia, Infirmary, 1 dead
 Harrisonville, Missouri, Home for Aged, 4 dead
 Amarillo, Texas, 10 dead
 Huguam, Washington, Home for Aged, 20 dead
 Hillsboro, Missouri, Nursing Home, 20 dead
 Boston, Nursing Home, 1 dead
 Warren, Pennsylvania, Nursing Home, 7 dead
 Billings, Montana, Nursing Home, 6 dead
 Largo, Florida, Nursing Home, 33 dead.

And, add to these horrible examples, the many near-misses, some of which the N. F. P. A. terms "miraculous" escapes!

Every one of these painful deaths, as you chiefs know so well, was unnecessary, and there is not a single one of them but could have been prevented.

So, what can the Fire Chief do about this menace?

First, he can enforce the law.

Well, what is the law?

Each of the New England States has its own laws and regulations relating to fire safety in nursing and boarding homes.

Some of them are well-thought-out, and specific, like Connecticut's. Some appear to me to be general and vague, and totally inadequate for present-day conditions. I won't mention whose they are.

If your State laws and regulations for nursing homes are not what they ought to be, that is a job for your State Fire Chiefs' Club to take up promptly. You ought not to rest until you have adequate statutes on the books, for if you Chiefs do not do your utmost, and a disaster strikes, with some of the elderly patients roasted to death, part of the responsibility will be yours.

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The Massachusetts Fire Chiefs' Club has its representative on our State Commission on Fire Safety in Convalescent Homes, Hospitals and Institutions, on which I also serve, and the organization has been backing our Commission up fully.

However, you should acquaint yourself with the tentative recommendations of the N. F. P. A. for Fire Safety For Nursing Homes, copies of which I have here. When their detailed standards come out a little later, give them your serious and effective attention, and try to get them adopted in your State and City.

As to the matter of sprinklers, in setting specific requirements, of course every Fire Chief will say, at once, "Put in Sprinklers!" Boston's excellent Fire Code for convalescent homes requires sprinklers. N. F. P. A. records now almost no loss of life, and little property damage, where sprinklers were present, in the numerous fires that have occurred in nursing homes. At the hearings before our Commission, the fire chiefs from our cities, one after another, advocated sprinklers, and rightly so.

The nursing home operators, however, raised practical problems. One, of course, was expense. They said that the amount the Welfare Boards are willing to pay just will not justify a capital expenditure of what one proprietor told us had been estimated by the installer to amount to \$600 per patient. The nursing home people also questioned having sprinklers in rooms where bed-ridden patients lie, although all agreed that sprinklers are desirable in basements, hallways and closets.

This brings us to the question: "What kind of an institution is the nursing home?"

The size of its accommodations, we already know. They run from four or five guests to two hundred fifty persons per home. Physically, the institution is likely to be some former gentleman's mansion; an immense structure, such as no family wants or can afford to operate, nowadays.

Very likely, it is balloon frame, has a mansard roof and great porches. There may be hydrant protection; but, even then, the home may be located where there is only six-pound pressure in the main, as with one our Commission heard of.

"There are institutions six miles from a fire station, where the roads are not plowed," a member of the Commission from the western part of our State told us.

The chief physical hazards, aside from smoking, are the heating plants, the multifarious electric apparatus and appliances, large vertical openings, careless housekeeping. Beyond this, you will find crowding of beds and patients, housing of attendants in attics.

In Massachusetts, the district officers of the State Police are requiring automatic fire detection systems, and extinguishers, and exits from every room to reach the outside. These are all important safeguards. And yet, in spite of the willingness of many operators to provide these improvements, there is still left much responsibility on the local fire chief, enough so that his nights may easily become sleepless, if he is a worrying man.

So let us look at the local Chief's responsibility. To start with, the granting of the original license is, in most states, dependent on the Fire Chief's advice and approval.



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An occasional Chief, who fears the hazards involved clears his skirts by refusing to okay any nursing home license in his town. By this means, he may whitewash himself but the result is that the old folks from his city are shunted off to the rest homes in some other town where the Chief looks at his duty more conscientiously. These patients then become an unfair burden on some other Chief.

In any cases, the Chief should give the proposed home a searching examination before approving the issuance of a license. Could he get ladders up to all the windows? Has he men enough to rescue the proposed number of patients? Could he use more than one or two lines with what water is available? Inside the building, are the chimney and heater in first-class condition? Is the heater cut off from the rest of the building? Are the important doors self-closing? Are the halls and stairways loaded with varnish? Can the stairs be cut off economically? And, most important, there is that question of exits for bed patients.

Let me give you some confidential data on the results of a recent inspection by competent people, not of rest homes, but of hospitals, where conditions should be much better than in boarding homes, according to normal expectations. Here is what the inspection of 153 hospitals turned up:

Only four out of each ten hospitals had sprinklers.

Half of the hospitals had substandard protection of vertical openings.

Half of them had combustible finish with varnish or paint hazards.

Almost half of them lacked smoke barriers.

In one-third, the doors swing in, not out.

One-third had housekeeping hazards.

Two-thirds needed facilities for emergency evacuations.

One-half lacked satisfactory alarm systems.

This was in hospitals, mind you! I, myself, inspected a town infirmary in Massachusetts that exhibited lacks in all the categories I have mentioned, and was told if the recommended improvements had to be made, the town would never vote the money, but would close the infirmary. To show you what such conditions mean, let me quote from the N. F. P. A. fire records for such institutions:

"County Home for the Aged, Harrisonville, Mo., October 27, 1950; four dead.

"Fire that originated in a closet beneath the basement stairs took the lives of four elderly men before they could be rescued from their basement sleeping quarters in the two-story brick, wood-joisted building. No sprinklers or automatic detection equipment was provided, no night attendant was on duty; all stairways were open; the building was a mile from the nearest hydrant. Only the timely arrival of a bakery delivery man at 4:15 A.M. probably prevented the death list from claiming all of the nineteen elderly occupants and six attendants asleep in the building. Firemen could not enter the basement, but were able to complete evacuation of the smoke-filled upper floors. They then prevented fire from extending above the first story with four 1½-inch lines, equipped with fog nozzles, and supplied from a 6,000 gallon cistern."

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Not only can he eliminate the ordinary fire hazards, but in existing homes, the chief can work out an effective evacuation plan with the owner. Put the plan on paper, with each step outlined. Organize the institution staff for the rescue job. Organize the neighbors, if necessary, also.

And, of course, he should work out all of the possibilities of the situation with his own fire crew and the police. Hold fire drills of the employee-staff; make them fire-conscious. And, have dry runs for your own men and the police. Train the employees, and your men, until they know exactly what each is to do, and where and how to do it at each hospital or boarding home in your town. Work out mutual aid, to meet the worst conditions.

Install an alarm box in the Home, if it is a good-sized institution. See that the Home has a heat detection system, and emergency lighting for use, should the wires go, as they will, in a fire. Make sure that the institution's records are kept in an adequate safe, so that a check of the inmates can be made after the fire, if needed.

And, persist! Read what the N. F. P. A. says about the infirmary fire at Nicolette, West Virginia:

"Infirmary, Nicolette, West Virginia, February 26, 1950; 1 dead; \$130,000.

"An 80-year-old inmate was trapped when fire destroyed the unsprinklered two-story brick, wood-joisted home for aged and infirm persons. Ignition of the combustible ceiling and walls of the furnace room by an overheated furnace was the apparent cause.

"On April 11, 1949, fire officials had submitted, in writing, sixteen recommendations to improve the fire safety of the building, two of which would have materially improved the fire-resistance of the boiler room and in all probability would have prevented this fire. Unfortunately, these and other major recommendations had not been acted upon."

Therefore, I say, keep stubbornly at your task. Make frequent inspections. If your state law or city ordinance does not give you direct authority, the agent of the Department of Health or Welfare, who has the authority, can deputize you to accompany him. But, the convalescent home manager who is conscientious and who plans to stay in business should welcome you anyway. He doesn't want a fire; nor does he want his paying clients burned, or asphyxiated.

The N. F. P. A. is in the process of developing a standard code for nursing homes to help you, which will be out soon, the officers say.

"There will be no loss of lives in hospital fires, if the proper automatic protective devices are installed in a hospital building, and if a comprehensive emergency plan is developed and the hospital employees indoctrinated in it, then practically all the emergencies which might arise will be satisfactorily taken care of," writes Dale C. Auck, Director of the Fire Protection Division of the Federation of Mutual Insurance Companies.

The point of this talk is just this: Each of you Chiefs wants to be in line for a congratulatory telegram like that which came to my name-sake, Howard F. Russell, from Sister Alberta, head of St. Paul's Hospital in Dallas, Texas. I have no connection with the companies complimented in the telegram but the

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message shows what can be the results, if the possible emergency is anticipated and properly planned for:

"Thanks to the evacuation program Improved Risk Mutuals inspired and urged upon us; 254 patients, including newborn babies, were safely evacuated from hospital without single casualty during severe fire of October 24th. If we had not been prepared, the death toll might have been tremendous. On behalf of the entire staff, we thank Improved Risk Mutuals, and express the hope that your campaign will succeed in getting other hospitals to start evacuation training and fire protection program."

Whether in the great City of Boston, with its sound Building Department rules for aged and convalescent homes, its remarkable Fire Prevention Division, and its experienced rescue squads; or, whether in the smallest town represented at this Conference, the problem of the aged, the sick and the helpless in these nursing homes, presses upon you Chiefs, with particular urgency. Yet, with the cooperation of your other municipal and state officials, and with your own determination that no disastrous loss of life shall occur in your community, you can meet the challenge.

To meet it, you must size up your nursing homes and hospitals, inspect them to a fare-thee-well; plan in advance every detail of your method for handling the rescue work, as well as of fighting the fire itself; organize the hospital staffs, your own crews and the police; and be eternally poised for the emergency.

Most of the bad nursing home disasters, so far, have been outside New England, we can thankfully say. Let us keep them outside! Let us permit our elderly folks to depart this life in peace, as God intended, and not in the frightful agony of a holocaust, which, but for our lack of foresight and concern, might have been prevented.

Thank you very much!

(Tuesday Morning Session adjourned at 12:30 P.M.)

Tuesday Afternoon, June 22, 1954

The Tuesday Afternoon Session convened at 2:40 o'clock, on June 22, 1954, with President Fortier presiding.

PRESIDENT FORTIER: The meeting will please come to order. I have some announcements. (Announcements were then made regarding the pool, and entertainment features.)

We are going to have a fine Round Table Discussion this afternoon, so that I am now going to turn this meeting over to your Moderator, Roi B. Woolley. Applause.)

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the New England Association of Fire Chiefs, and Guests and Friends who are here. I don't see too many of you asleep; after that big luncheon, I couldn't blame any of you if you did want to slumber. But, those who wish to sleep, please don't snore in the face of this Panel. They are all temperamental, and they don't want to be upset.

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We are here to attempt to try to answer questions that some of you have already given to us in the Question Box, and all other questions that I am sure you men have with you and want to ask from the floor.

We haven't a definite time limit on this, but I am going to ask you to remember this. Stand up to be seen, speak up to be heard, and sit down to be remembered, when you have put your question. We will try to do the same up here at the head table. We have a traveling microphone, and we will ask those of you who wish to ask questions, to use the microphone.

So that you may meet this Panel of Experts, beginning on my left, Chief Clinton H. Murray, of Cape Elizabeth, Maine.

Our good friend, Chief Anthony J. Molloy was called away, and we have in his place a very good candidate, who, incidentally, is going to be on tomorrow, Chief John E. Keefe, of Bellows Falls, Vermont.

Chief Dick Holmes of Windsor, Vermont.

Chief John E. Corcoran of Newton, Massachusetts.

Chief Lewis A. Marshall of Providence, Rhode Island.

Chief Stuart M. Potter of Greenwich, Connecticut.

Now, we have had the questions delivered to us, here. I will go over them, as best I can. If, in my opinion, there are some questions which are "spiked" or are of a too controversial nature and would require considerable debate, we may try them out, but if it is going to be protracted, we may have to cut it off and carry it on with others, after the meeting.

The first question is: What is being done to control the false alarm problem? This question is from a fellow called "Request." He doesn't state his town.

That is a very important question, and it is a good one, too. I believe that it is one that we can devote perhaps at least five minutes to, and I should like very much to start off with Chief Marshall on this question, because perhaps having handled and received more alarms of fire than any one here, except Boston, of course, he is in a position to give us his thoughts in the matter. And, Chief, in answering this, would you try to make it as concise as you can?

CHIEF MARSHALL: In Providence, over a number of years, we run anywhere from 10 to 20 per cent false alarms, out of about 4,000 alarms, so that it is a considerable problem.

I don't know the answer to it. We have done everything we possibly can, in the educational field, in television, radio, through the Chamber of Commerce and the newspapers, and in every way that we possibly can.

The police do get a considerable number of these false alarm people, and in most cases the people they get are juveniles, and run from seven to fifteen years of age. There isn't much that you can do about those people; they turn them back to their parents and warn them. But, they do catch them time and time again. So that you have those repeaters.

Now, with reference to the fine and jail sentence, you don't get those people too often, and furthermore, it is very difficult to really get a conviction. You have to actually see the man with his hand on the box, and we have several boxes, where there has been one person in the vicinity, and there is no question about the fact that he is the fellow who pulled the false alarms,

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and you can't get a conviction, unless you actually swear to the fact that you see his hand on the box and you see him actually pull the alarm.

MODERTOR WOOLEY: Thank you very much, Chief Marshall. There is the viewpoint of a professional Chief.

Then, of course, we have the problem of the type of false alarm that comes over the telephone, as well as the box. At this stage of the game, I want to say this. We don't want to enter into a discussion, that is, a controversial discussion of the fire alarm box versus the telephone, and the supplanting of boxes by telephones. That may come up a little later, and we certainly are going to have a speaker at another session who will be discussing that matter, and perhaps we might reserve our questions for that discussion and that paper. I don't wish to embarrass him in his later discussion; but, I think that we ought to try to arrive, here and now, at some solutions, if we possibly can do so.

We have had a viewpoint of a big city. Now, I should like to take an area, a district, a township, where we may have both paid and volunteer departments, and I am going to call upon Chief Potter, and ask him to give us his ideas on this question.

CHIEF POTTER: This has been a controversial subject, ever since I first entered the fire service, and I have heard it discussed pro and con, many, many times. Apparently, there has not been a great deal done along the lines of clearing the situation.

The false alarm by box is generally perpetrated by minors or by inebriates. However, we get a large number of false alarms by telephone, and with the introduction of the dial telephones, it is going to be most difficult to know whether we have a false alarm or whether it is a misdirected alarm, for an actual fire.

I believe that some more concrete action should be done along these lines. Very possibly, this Association should take some specific action, either in the appointment of a committee to make a study of this situation, or at least refer the matter to the Resolutions Committee, so that they can place the Association on record, and possibly we can work in conjunction with other organizations that may be working along the same lines.

I don't think it would be well to have several individual organizations making individual surveys. If we can work, in conjunction with some other organizations, perhaps we will come up with a solution that will be a good one.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: There is a thought that I believe is something we could well pursue, if anything is going to be done. In handling the meaning of the false alarm situation, it is going to have to be done in concert with other organizations, and I mean by that, the signal men, the National Board, the N. F. P. A. and all the groups which are affected by this evil, and it is an evil, and it is becoming worse.

So, I believe that it might be well for me to make this very brief statement. The International has a Committee on Communications, which has been authorized and empowered to proceed with this investigation, and to utilize the material we have on hand, to broaden the study, so that it includes both telephone and box and all other forms of false alarms, and that we come up with recommendations which the whole fire service can consider, and possibly adopt.

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It might not be amiss for this organization here assembled this week, to pass some sort of a resolution, at least urging the united effort and urging this organization to go along with any constructive, comprehensive, united effort.

Now, we have here two men who might have some ideas about this matter. Chief Murray comes from a community where there are no boxes, and they use the telephone entirely. Might we have a word from you, Chief Murray, on this? After that, I would like to have our good friend from New Hampshire talk about this.

CHIEF MURRAY: We have very little trouble with false alarms, Roi. Once in a while, we will get one. We have no boxes, as you said, and all of the calls do come by telephone.

And, of course, with the dial system, we have no way of tracing them. If operators think there is anything funny about the calls, they question the callers as carefully as possible, and if they believe it is a false alarm, we just take it.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: Thank you very much, Chief. That is short and to the point. And now, I would like very much to have a word from our Chief in Bellows Falls, because he has a thought to take away with him.

CHIEF KEEFE: As a footnote to what the other fellows have said, I came from a much smaller town, but through education in the schools, we did cut the false alarms by juveniles down to 34 in 1951 to one, last year, and it was through the efforts of the P.T.A. and the efforts of the Fire Department, and education in the schools that we were able to cut down those false alarms by the juveniles. We consider that that is a very good record, for four years.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: Thank you very much, Chief. We have had a rather brief outline of this question; perhaps it doesn't leave you with too many concrete thoughts, but I think that we would be wrong, if we didn't open it up for a few minutes' discussion from the floor, because the topic is altogether too important to cross off lightly. This is a family group. And, Joe Scanlon is down there ready with the traveling microphone, in the audience. One or two of you men might have a question and a thought, like our last speaker, which is constructive in nature and which we can take back with us.

CHIEF WOOD of Plymouth, Massachusetts: I would like to go along with the previous Fire Chief, who talked in regard to the telephone calls. We have alarm boxes in our city, but we get calls over the telephone, too, and many times, the caller must give the name, address, and state the nature of the fire; if they don't give us that information, then we don't roll.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: Very good, Chief. Now, we are getting some constructive stuff, and this is what we want.

CHIEF EAMES of Reading, Mass.: I think that the matter of street lighting is very important in these false alarms.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: Does anybody else want to speak on this subject, quickly? I don't know whether Henry Thomas would like to say something on this matter. There he is, combing both of those hairs. Do you want to say something, Henry, speaking from an overall viewpoint?

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CHIEF THOMAS: I think that what has been said previously, and by yourself and other speakers, is very much to the point.

I should like to emphasize that the International Association, at their Board meeting last February, authorized the Chairman of the Communications Committee (who is Roi Wooley) to proceed with the investigation and survey of what can be done about false alarms, in addition to three or four other matters he has, relating to communications.

Of course, as Chairman of that Committee, Roi is properly authorized to set up such sectional committees as he deems necessary to further study this particular problem.

I would go along with some of the thoughts that have been expressed, that the false alarm menace (and that is what it is) is something that confronts all of our departments in both fire alarm boxes on the corner and the telephone, of course.

I think that the remedies are both educational, as Stuart has said, and also the enforcement.

I think that in the main, the control of false alarms is a local problem, and that is No. 1 in the survey tackling this problem. I think, Roi, as we have discussed this previously, it would have to be a survey of what is a false alarm.

In that connection, I would refer some of our people to one of the Bulletins of the National Board, issued some time ago, the title of which is: "What is a false alarm?"

For, certainly, there are the smoke scares; and the needless alarms, and all that sort of thing; there are the honest mistakes, and they are not necessarily malicious, false alarms.

But, the remedy, I think, Roi, is local. I think it is education, and I think that we also must have a stiffer penalty for these people who, through some insane ideas of fun, or something else, tend to pull fire alarm boxes.

I can only assure the group, and you, Roi, that the International Association will go all the way with you and your Committee on this problem, in the interests of the various Chiefs who are concerned.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: Thank you very much, Chief Thomas. I am very glad to have you bring that out, because I want this organization to feel that here is a former President of yours, on our Committee, and we are going to try to dove-tail the work, so that you will know everything that is going on, and the International will go ahead with it, and we will hang together, if we have to hang at all.

This is critical, this definition of a false alarm. We ought to start with the terminology, and I do think that, as you will note in the reports of the Fire Chiefs that go across the desk, and particularly John O'Hearn will agree with this because he sees them, you will find there is no single classification that we can adopt. For, a malicious, false alarm, in one city, is a different type in another city. In many cities, they group all types of alarms, for which there is no fire, under false alarms. And, the poor old, red, fire alarm box on the corner gets the blame for many of these false alarms that might be by telephone, or even verbal.

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And thus it is that this Committee will concern itself first, with the definition, and, if anybody on the floor has a thought to contribute as to that definition, be ready to speak upon it.

CHIEF ANDREWS of the Bedford Fire Department: I wonder if the fire alarm box manufacturers, or any one else, could invent some one device, which is cheap and inexpensive, and which the Fire Chief could put on every one of the boxes in the city, and whether that wouldn't materially cut down on the number of false alarms.

At present, one box manufacturer does have a device, which I believe costs in the neighborhood of \$20.00 to \$30.00. If one has 500 or 1,000 boxes in the city, and he wants to put one on each box, that runs into a cost that is almost prohibitive. So that if some one could invent something that would cost around \$2.00, \$3.00 or \$5.00, and we would install them on all of our boxes, I think that it would materially cut down these false alarms, because the minute the box is pulled, the people in the neighborhood would go to their windows, or people walking by would turn around, and people would be seen leaving the box, or actually pulling the box.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: Thank you very much, Chief Andrews. That thought has been expressed many, many times. There have been numerous devices suggested, everything from a siren on top of it, to a camera taking pictures, to a pair of handcuffs which would lock the arms of the one who pulls the boxes, and there have been objections to nearly all of them.

One of the troubles is that it catches the person after they pull the alarm. Some of us have thought that it might be better to try to prevent these people from pulling these alarms at the outset. And, of course, we all know that juvenile delinquency is no small problem. Many of these factors have got to be weighed, and I am sure that your expressions, as you have given them here, will be considered.

This is a very pertinent question. Does any one else want to add his thoughts to this matter?

CHIEF GORMAN of Quincy, Mass.: I should like to quote two occasions where a particular person stopped false alarms, from two boxes. One person was across the street from the box and the second one was by a man traveling across the railroad tracks, when he stopped a false alarm from the box, there. There are two cases that we were able to take care of ourselves. And, that comes under the preventive side of it.

And there is always the question about what you do after the box is pulled?

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: Thank you very much, Chief.

And now, Chief Marshall has a slight contribution.

CHIEF MARSHALL: This is a short observation. I don't think that we should forget the primary objective of the fire alarm box, and if we are going to make it so bad, or put everybody in the light of pulling a false alarm, you are going to find that people are not going to use the boxes, and after all, that is the express purpose that the boxes are put there for.

There are many times that when a person thinks he sees smoke, it turns out to be steam. And, if you are going to handcuff somebody every time you know a box is pulled, then you are getting away from the objective of notifying the Fire Department of a fire or a suspected fire.



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MODERATOR WOOLLEY: That is an intellectual observation; it is one which partly answers Brother Andrews' question. Some of these manufacturers desisted, because they felt that you could scare people so that it would be defeating the whole purpose of the fire alarm box.

There is another thing being done in an effort to detect culprits, and that is the use of infra-red, and I am going to let the Chief tell you about that.

CHIEF KEEFE: We did put that on during the last year, Roi. Since that time, the Education Department has gone along with us. We haven't had too many false alarms.

I don't know whether that would stand up in court or not, under false alarms. We do have our boxes dusted with this invisible green dust, but as yet we haven't had a chance to prove our cases. Maybe some one will even enlighten us.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: I can say that you first have to catch the culprit. That evidence can be taken into court, and, in Cleveland and other places, we have secured convictions. It is the same idea as marked bills, and that sort of thing is applicable and admissible in court.

Does any one else wish to have anything to say on this matter?

CHIEF JOHN MCBRIDE: On that point, there is one phase of this problem that I do not think has been discussed here today. The problem is not entirely for the fire service. I think that the police problem is one phase of it, and if we can't obtain the cooperation of the police in prosecuting these cases, then we cannot go very far.

I recall that we had a joint meeting of the police chiefs of Massachusetts with the Fire Chiefs Club, and at that time, we had greater success than the City of Boston, in prosecuting false alarm offenders.

And so I think that in your Committee, Roi, you should expect and seek the cooperation and the help of the police in solving the problem.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: Thank you very much. And I might say that I believe that is an essential thing to be done, because unless we can get a stiffening of the backbone of these magistrates, and unless they go along with us, we will be where we started, making no progress whatever.

And so we must consider that in any plan that we have.

CHIEF HOLMES: We have gone into the schools and educated them how to pull a fire alarm box. That may sound funny, but we haven't had a false alarm. We do teach them how to pull it, in our city.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: Now, some of you may think that that is like saying not to put beans in your ears, and a little child will go right out and do it. Nevertheless, it is considered good educational work along that line, if it is properly done. I am glad to see that Chief Holmes is getting results.

I think that we have now covered nearly everybody, but is there any one else who wants to say a word about this matter, before we give a last, final warning?

Well, Gentlemen, I don't like to skip over this, but I feel that we have turned up a few ideas. I won't attempt to summarize further, but let us go on to the next question.

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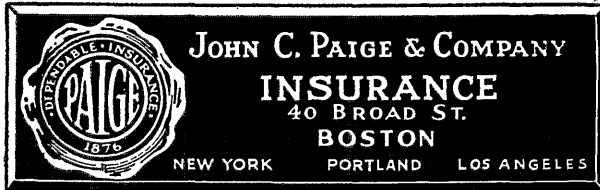
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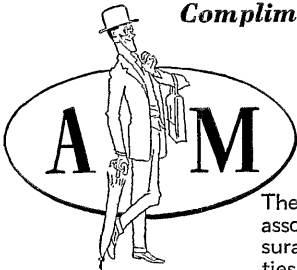
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Our next question is an interesting one, from an unknown respondent, and here it is.

Will, in your opinion, the fog nozzle displace the solid stream nozzle, or the 2½ inch straight stream?

Well, now, I thought the 2½ inch straight stream and the solid stream nozzle were identical, but maybe I am wrong. If the person who propounds this question wants to amplify it, I will be glad to have him do so. Otherwise, I would interpret it: Will the fog nozzle, not the universal type, displace a control nozzle?

Chief Marshall, do you want to say anything on that subject?

CHIEF MARSHALL: No.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: I believe that our Panel will agree that there will never be any such displacement. I think that our attendance here will agree it is like saying that foam displaces all other types of extinguishers. They each have their place, and will be used.

I doubt that it will be necessary to go into this, unless the one who asked the question wishes to amplify it a bit. And if he doesn't want to speak up, himself, does anybody on the floor want to speak for him, because I don't want to have him feel that we have passed too lightly over a question that he has given to us.

CHIEF THOMAS: First, we all agree with you that the fog nozzle will not replace the straight stream for all purposes. The fog nozzle definitely has its place, and the straight stream, also, in large fires.

My purpose in standing up at this time, Roi, is to tell all of our members here that there is a great deal being done on further research of the fog nozzle, and that the survey that was made to determine nozzle impressions, and optimal discharges, at Elmira, is the first step and that study is being continued, and the study as to the optimum pressures and volumes, together with the pattern of the stream, will be continued by our sub-committee, of which you are a member, Roi, at the University of Maryland.

I also wanted to say at this time, Roi, that you are very fortunate, because of the help and assistance of Kyle Laughlin, sitting over here, and being able to get some money from the Federal government, so that in cooperation with the Forestry Department, we are going to go into that research.

There is also going on, a continuing test, of the Underwriters' Laboratory, to determine the optimum size of droplets. I do believe that at the conclusion of this, and because of the cooperation of all concerned, that the fog nozzle and its uses will be better understood by the National Fire Service, or our Fire Service.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: Thank you very much, Henry. I think that that is a very pertinent observation, and I believe that it provides a very good answer to the question.

At this time, I should like to introduce a man, and I believe that he hasn't been here in some years; his predecessor was well-known here. I don't think that anybody in this country has contributed more, or, let me say that I don't think any Fire Department has contributed more to the advancement of water fog than the New Haven Fire Department. And, we have with us, Chief

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Collins. Is he here, Chief Tom Collins of the New Haven Fire Department. I believe he is in the back row, hiding somewhere. He is one of the smartest men in the Fire Service, and probably nobody gives greater cooperation than he and his boys do.

Tom, in your opinion, what do you think about this water fog, in place of the straight stream?

CHIEF COLLINS: I was hiding in the back row so that nobody would know I was here!

Of course, we do a lot with water fog on fires in New Haven, and we think we know its limitations.

But, as far as the prognosis of the straight nozzle goes, I think that you will need both of them, and which one you need the most, I am not prepared to say right now, because I think when you use them in combination, you have an ideal situation, as far as fighting fires is concerned.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: Thank you very much, Tom. Is there anybody else who wants to speak on this subject? If not, then I think that we can dispose of it, because it really needs very little more enlightenment. Henry has told us of the advantages of having the researches continued.

There is one thing that I would close with, which has not been thoroughly explored in this country, and that is, in my opinion, the mission of the International, plus Kyle Laughlin's work in Washington, and I refer to the use of large-scale, heavy duty fog, in the matter of fire defense. None of us know too much about it.

In New York State, we have played with it now for two years, and I had the pleasure, in Westchester, of handling 76 engine companies, where we put on a test, with fog, the idea being to find out how much of it we could deliver over ladder pipes, and so on, and I was very happy to note that from four areas, we were getting between 2,000 and 2,500 G. P. M. for discharge, off the metal aerial ladder, about 60 per cent extended, and we combined those, using heavy duty fog, we found, to our amazement, that we were wetting down landscape up to 2,000 feet distance, and somewhere better than 100 feet in the air.

That is a pattern of extinguishment, if you please, which, thus far, I do not believe has been explored beyond that point.

I think that we can well go forward with it, and some day, we may find, to our amazement, that heavy duty fog, combined especially with heavy duty straight streams, impinging up into the air, will provide us with a fire defense that we, heretofore, haven't believed possible.

The next question, No. 3 and 3-A, I believe, can be answered; it is from W. R. P. Here it is:

We have a two-way radio; where can we get the official instructions for operating our radio most efficiently and *cheap*?

I believe that the answer to that could be given to you by any of the radio manufacturers with representatives here, but I can also state, and I am very happy to state that the National Board of Fire Underwriters and the Signal Men's Association, as well as the N. F. P. A., the International Association of Fire Fighters, and the International Association of Fire Chiefs, have just approved and have had the endorsement of the Federal Communications Commis-



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sion of a radio manual called "The Manual of Radio Procedures for the Fire Service." That book is, I think, well, I had better shut up and get John Gerletti to speak about it, and John, as you know, is the General Manager of the International. But, first, Henry, do you wish to make any mention of it?

CHIEF THOMAS: Well, the Manual that Roi's Committee has prepared, as he has said, is nearly completed. I think, Roi, that we are now making tentative drafts of it, galley proofs, so to speak, and, following a very brief editing, as I understand it, Roi, this thing will be ready for the printer, and we hope to have it available for distribution to the members.

At this time, I should like to thank you and your committee, Roi, for the grand job you did on that, because I think you have worked on it for about a year and a half, haven't you?

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: Three years. Henry, that is very nice, but from now on, we had better not drag Roi Woolley into the picture too much. The understanding I have is that they are proceeding with the publication of it, but the Committee will receive finish page proofs, merely as a double check. I am happy to say that this has been submitted to the F. C. C. and ultimately it will be recommended by all hands, including the N. F. P. A., and it will be signed by all of these associations, and, I know that it will be available to this organization.

The next question, No. 4, is an interesting one to me, because it opens up a new avenue.

Somewhere, I read about the death of a fireman, in an attempt to use an oxygen mask under water. Can your Panel tell me about it? What masks, if any, are safe for under-water use, and how should they be used?

Now, that question was signed by a guy named "Anxious."

This is something that I don't think I have the clippings at hand, but I do know that a fireman was drowned, I believe in Pennsylvania, but I am not sure of that, in a demonstration of the use of an oxygen breathing apparatus, under water. I do not know what make of equipment it was, but I know that it was supposed to be a make which can be used that way, and I have been given to understand that it was more a mis-use, a mis-appliance of the device, than the device itself.

I don't know that there is anybody in the room who knows about that. I might, at the risk of being a little bit out of order, ask if there is any one of the representatives of that company here? Is Bill Eckman of Scott Air Pact available? Can you get him in here, Mr. Sergeant-at-Arms?

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS DOOLING: He is down at the Exhibit Hall.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: I don't think that it had a thing to do with this demonstration, and I don't want to accuse him of anything. I have some clippings, here (searching for the clippings in brief case). I will bring the question up after I find these clippings, and we can let our audience go on discussing the next question.

The next question is No. 5; I think that we are making fairly good progress. It is this.

What could be done to improve the fireman's training?

I believe that that is a question from a voluntary Fire Chief, J. R.

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Now, I should like to take the Panel, very quickly, and I want to see if we have anybody, first, on the Panel, who is making any particular improvements to cover this particular subject.

CHIEF MURRAY: We are not doing anything unusual, as far as training goes. But, the small, voluntary departments are always available, and the men from the larger departments come in and instruct the small departments in all divisions of fire fighting, and I might say that they are usually very glad to go to the small towns and give their services for this training.

We have done that in the past, and expect to do it in the future, and we have found it very successful.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: Let us come right down the line, now.

CHIEF HOLMES: We belong to a Twin-State Fire Association up there, composed of eight towns, and two years ago, we started a fire training idea, using all the towns, getting together and working on it that way. This year, we have set up a program where we go to get an instructor from one of the manufacturers, to come up and show us some pumps; we are having a liquid foam and dry powder company show us that phase of it. Next week, we are having a school on first aid, and we are lucky enough to have a doctor who belongs to the Hanover, New Hampshire Fire Department to come in and instruct us on that phase of it.

So that we believe we are getting some very good instructors, and we think that we can improve the Fire Service a good deal.

CHIEF KEEFE: I like to look at it in our particular State on a State level. Chief Koltonski and I have instructed several fire schools throughout Vermont, and we have several more coming up.

In talking with him this morning, we discussed the point of standardizing on training for instructors. Maybe Chief Koltonski has a point on that, and that is our particular problem in Vermont at the minute, standardizing the instructions on training.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: Al Koltonski, do you wish to add something, at this time?

CHIEF KOLTONSKI: We are quite a way off from the big towns, and I remember that somebody wrote in a book that I read one time, that the volunteer firemen should send a man to the big city for fire fighting. Well, we found that some of the big city guys, in their wise ways, were astounded by the things that we had to do with.

We are trying to standardize on our firemen's training program. The men coming in talk one way, and they may go in to the next county and find they are taught a different way.

Right now, we are writing a book, so that we will have a standard method of training.

Our training has all been financed by the State Firemen's Association; the Association pays the expenses of the men coming in. We have been fortunate as to the type of men we have had, and the reasonable amount of money they have charged; in fact, some of them didn't even collect their expenses. However, we are quite a way away from everybody else, and, to get mutual aid, it

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means 50 or 60 miles, so that we have got to depend on volunteer firemen, and we like to have them work the same way that we do.

CHIEF CORCORAN of Newton, Massachusetts: On Fire Department Training, I will say that in the City of Newton, we have a population of 85,000, and we have a personnel on the fire force of 234, with ten fire stations; we have a forty-eight hour law as to working conditions, and I am doing all I can to improve the Fire Department's training.

Only recently, within these past few months, I had occasion to observe that in certain fires, some of the men are a bit timid, even the older men, as to the use of the mask.

Now, with due respect to all gas masks, I wanted them to understand that the particular mask was approved by the United States Navy, and could be used under all conditions. I took a Lieutenant from the Department and I delegated him to instruct all working groups, and he has about completed that in my department. And, I have been pleased to have reports from various men, from the privates right down the line, saying that the course given by him had given them great confidence in the use of not only the mask, but the other gas masks. And so I felt quite elated over that.

I will continue that training, and all of our other training, which is generally carried on in a city the size of Newton, is going forth as usual.

I am happy to say that with three new fire stations to be built this year, one of them in Newton Highlands will contain a modern drill school, a duplicate of our friends in Brookline, and we expect to have anything and everything in it, and I will certainly do everything I can to make the Newton Fire Department a better one, to make the men better understand their duties as fire fighters.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: Thank you very much, Chief.

Before I ask Chief Marshall, who has done grand work on this, to speak in conclusion, I would like to ask Stuart Potter to speak about the in-service training which he has experimented with, and I believe for several years.

CHIEF POTTER: Roi asked me to speak about the in-service training. I would like to touch briefly on the basic subject that is before us today.

It is obvious that small communities do not have the personnel to conduct proper in-training schools; nor do they have the physical facilities to operate a proper training school. It is necessary for the smaller communities to rely on the generousities of their big neighbors, or to establish regional schools, some of which may receive assistance from their counties, or from the State.

I highly recommend that type of training, because it provides the men, not only with the standardization of techniques, but it also gives them the very best that is obtainable in the field.

Roi asked me to touch on the in-training service which I did; it was merely a night school, in which the entire paid personnel was required to attend. I also have a great many volunteers, and they were invited to attend, and a great many of them did attend. We had some very outstanding talents we were able to procure, and they came in and lectured.

I believe that we did get a great deal of benefit from that school, but it was merely a service or a series of lectures, and I subscribe to the type of job that Tom Collins is doing in New Haven, to learn by doing.

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MODERATOR WOOLLEY: And now, Chief Marshall, we would like to hear from you.

CHIEF MARSHALL: Well, we are very fortunate, of course, in the City of Providence, to have good neighbors, as we say, who allow us to use their facilities for training and the Grinnell people in particular have a proving ground out at Cranston, and they have done a grand job, and they have allowed our trainees, our new men in the department, and also our officers in the promotional schools and men in the department themselves, to go out there and use their facilities. It is something similar to what Chief Collins has in New Haven, only not on such a large scale.

I might say, also, that a few years ago, we were very fortunate in being allowed to go down to Quonset and use their training facilities down there, for rescue work and diving.

For years, we maintained rescue groups, qualified for shell diving and also for deep diving, but that is a pretty risky thing, that deep diving, and you get into situations where, possibly, you could lose some personnel, and I think that Chief Laughlin in East Providence has just had a group that has been down to the Naval Training Station and they got some valuable training down there.

But, I just want to give you, briefly, a description of our method of recruiting; I think it is a little bit interesting, and a little bit different, probably than in most communities.

Our trainees, when they come into our department, are not members of our department. Of course, they have that status for six months. But, when they come into the Department and take the examination, they have what we call grading charts, and we have a point system, and there are fifty points that a trainee can acquire. We take what we think are the best qualifications we might want in a man; for example, from 21 to 26, as to the age, and in that age group, we give him a full five points. The same thing is true on visual acuity; if it is 20-20, he gets the full points, whereas if it is 20-30 in one eye, or 20-30 in both eyes, he can lose five points there.

In Providence, a man must have at least two years of high school, but, for each semester over two years, you give him a point. If he is a high school graduate, he picks up four points; for the military service, he gets ten points, and every veteran gets another five points.

Then, too, past employment is very important. If he can produce a card and if he is a union member of any craft at all, particularly a carpenter, electrician, or anything to do with the building trades, he gets a point for that, as against the fellow who may have been working in a drug store.

Those are the basic qualifications. Another good thing about the system is that he goes to school for six months, and he is separate and apart from the Fire Department; he has absolutely no rights at all, and we can leave him out for any cause at all. If you get him up to the drill towers, and you find that he is leary about climbing, or that height bothers him, or that he can't handle a truck, then you can catch that man before he becomes a member of the Department, for we all know that once a man becomes a member of the department, it is pretty difficult to let him go; usually, if he gets into a company and spends his time there, it is pretty hard for a fellow, a Captain or a Lieutenant,

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to turn the man in, for he may be married and have several children and all that sort of thing, and you have somebody on your hands that you are going to have for the next twenty-five years who will not be of much value to you.

Now, that is a long story in itself, and I know that it would take up too much time to go into all of this, but those are some of the things that are valuable to a department.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: Thank you, Chief Marshall. Time goes on, and there is a Chief in the house here, of a department which has done a rather remarkable job on this score; he has a paper which could be read, but it would take up a half an hour, and we haven't the time for it. I hesitate to ask him to condense, in a few minutes, the story of what they are doing. But, perhaps he could try to do that. I should like to have him take three minutes. Chief Rivard of Willimantic, will you tell us something about what you are doing in a small city, where your department has gone out, and by dint of energy and effort, and they have done something worthwhile.

CHIEF RIVARD of Willimantic: Thank you, Roi. Very recently, we have started a training school in Willimantic; it is a brand new one, and we are trying to incorporate it.

Now, some of you may want to know what this incorporation means. It is the combination of the towns and counties. We have gotten together and started the new training school. As you may well know, in most Fire Departments, there is not too much money to play with, and especially to build a training school. So they have gotten together and started this training school.

Incidentally, they gave us three weeks to build up everything, and to open the school on June 12th of this year. There are quite a few Fire Chiefs who have been to the opening of the school and they have seen what we have accomplished in three weeks. It was really quite a thing to do.

Now, all of these departments have come in and offered their own services, and a lot of companies have come forward, giving us this material and equipment to start the spring school. We now have a drill tower, and we have the usual tanks; one is gasoline, one is fuel oil and the other is motor oil. And, all of this material has been given to us, and all the labor was free, as it was done by the members, themselves.

So that if any of you gentlemen want to start a training school, we will gladly give you our program and help you in every way that we possibly can. It can be done, and it has been done, and I would like to assure you that in a couple of years from now, you will see one of the best schools in eastern Connecticut!

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: I know that he has done far more than he has told us. I hope that perhaps we can get the story printed, and I think it is gracious of him to offer it to any of you who might want to have it.

CHIEF RIVARD: It is mostly volunteer departments.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: His work is somewhat similar to the job done by Chief Stevens; you may remember that at the F.D.I.C., I believe the top paper was given by him, and he told a little bit about the cross-roads Fire Departments, and how they, by dint of borrowing, begging, and almost stealing, they organized a training ground similar to that in New Haven, only on a more

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modest style. They had a drill tower; they had pits; they drove a tanker over the road to burn it. And, the work can be done in the smaller communities, between the counties, in areas like that. It is very much worthwhile for the New England Association, as a group, to consider encouraging this development.

I should like to take more time on this subject, and I think that it is only fair to ask if anybody else is doing something which will contribute to this picture. Do you want to take a moment to speak on that, a moment more? If not, we will skip along.

I have now found the clippings on the disaster, and I won't bother to read too many of them, but the sum and substance of it is this. A member of a volunteer First-Aid Squad, at Browns Mills, New Jersey, died on May 21st, doing an underwater dive to test a new oxygen rescue device. He was a 38-year old, local resident. This device was strapped on, with compressed oxygen canister, designed to last one hour. He was descended to the floor, with the aid of lead weights. In the first test dive, Mr. Baker re-surfaced; in the second dive, he didn't come up for fifteen minutes, and his colleagues began grappling. Then, the State Police took the matter over several weeks ago.

Now, there are two factors in that situation that stick out like a sore thumb. He used lead weights, which could not be removed. They weren't removed, anyway. And, secondly, there was no rope; there was nothing to bring him up, when he failed to appear. There was no communications hook-up.

I am sorry that the men who might have the full facts of this case are not here. Perhaps we can bring this up again tomorrow. But, I think that it is one of these things that are happening, and it is well for us to explore it, because many of us, as Chiefs, have the inclination to take equipment that we get and try to develop new uses for it, uses beyond that which the manufacturers intended it for.

Now, I have a nice note, here, that I appreciate very much, and I think that anybody running a Panel likes something like this. It says:

"I hope there will be plenty of time given by the Panel Director for questions and discussion from the floor."

Now, that is exactly what we are here for, and we are not here to load you with ideas from this group up here. We want you to feel that you are going to have time for questions and discussion, and I don't care whether your questions are couched in good English or not, and furthermore, if a fellow wants to cuss now and then, he can do that, too.

If anybody has a thought or an idea that he wants to get off his chest, let's have it.

The next question could lead us into things:

Should Civil Defense take over in peace time emergencies?

That comes from a Fire Chief, who gave us his card. I don't know whether he wishes me to give his name or not, but he is a Massachusetts Chief. And that is a very intelligent question. I don't know whether we should start out with the Panel, necessarily, but maybe I can limit the Panel to a "Yes" or "No" answer and we can get their idea on it quickly.

Should Civil Defense take over or not?

CHIEF MURRAY: No.

CHIEF HOLMES: No.

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CHIEF KEEFE: No.

CHIEF CORCORAN: No.

CHIEF MARSHALL: I have just a slight observation. I think that now, and on every occasion, your entire Civil Defense organization in probably nine out of every ten cities, is primarily your Fire Department anyway.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: I won't even ask Stu Potter!

CHIEF POTTER: You answer it for me!

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: I think that frankly, we are pretty well agreed, but I think perhaps the Chief had this in mind; perhaps he didn't mean it was going to supplant the Fire Department. I think that perhaps what he meant was something like this. In Washington, they may have a Federal policy, which they hope to espouse, to have the Fire Department in these major scale emergencies, such as the New England disaster, and so on.

May we, at the risk of imposing upon you, Kyle, ask you to give us, if not official Washington opinion, at least, your own thoughts in this matter, unless it will embarrass you to do so.

MR. KYLE LAUGHLIN: I think that some of the difficulty has arisen from the fact that the Civil Defense Administration in Washington now has the authority to coordinate the needs for disaster, where the Federal government has to be brought into the picture, financially.

The Federal Civil Defense Administration now has the power to coordinate disaster occasions, by Public Law No. 875.

For instance, if there is a big national disaster, as Roi has mentioned, and funds were needed, the request for funds would come through the Federal Civil Defense Administration, and they would, after investigation, make recommendations to the President. I think the fact that we have that coordinating authority on the Federal level has perhaps confused the issue a little bit, and it isn't contemplated that in every little disaster that may occur, the Federal Civil Defense Administration, waving banners, will come in and supplant the Civil Defense.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: Does this not answer your question?

Chief Eames of Reading will now have a reason for talking.

CHIEF EAMES of Reading, Mass.: And, Roi, I am not ashamed to say that I put the question in. We have had disasters, and we have been called upon to render flood-light service.

One town, I understand, asked for six or eight lighting units for one night; and, going through the channels, he sent out a call for ladders, flood lights, and, in fact, one was for a 100-foot ladder, for Haverhill.

It seems to me that the Fire Departments should be trained in their emergency work, and they are perfectly qualified to handle the situation, without orders which perhaps might come through channels and be confused, and the people who do not know the fundamentals and the importance of rescue work are allowed to do it.

For instance, if help is needed in a disaster unit, they want it, and quick; and, they don't want to have the help form in convoys, for they will have to be protected.

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Let me say I get a call in the afternoon from the Civil Defense. First, we go to the Fire Station. Then to City Hall, and then we find out that the Civil Defense is directing the operations. Well, we started in under their direction, and finally, we got off by ourselves, and got to places where we really were needed.

I do feel that Fire and Police Departments, in case of emergency, are in a position where, from their experience in emergency situations, they can carry on, and I do feel that perhaps in case of a war emergency, Civil Defense should come in, but it certainly "dogs" the Fire Chief.

The Civil Defense Director may be a druggist, or in some other occupation, and I think that the Fire Chiefs should stand up in their own shoes, and in case of disaster, they should be on their own, and without the aid of the Civil Defense.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: It is very refreshing to have observations of that kind; that is what we are here for. I appreciate your remarks.

Only a few days ago, at our nation-wide tests, I had the darndest time, where we are supposed to alert the Fire Service in the seven-county support area. New York City was all cleared, and it was all cleared up through the White Plains section. Of course, that was a paper exercise, and we were supposed to do all of that work, without credit for the Fire Service.

In some counties, States and cities of this nation, they directed circulars and other material going out to all Civil Defense personnel, practically ignoring the Fire Service; you wouldn't know that they were in the Civil Defense picture.

That, however, is a local, regrettable picture, and I don't think that it exists, nationally. I think that we are going to see continued improvement, because, now, the Fire Service is reorganized, in a way, and Kyle Laughlin and the new Director working down there, I believe, have our interests at heart, and I am sure that the Fire Advisory Council, under the direction, to some extent, of Chief Henry Thomas, who is here, will assure you that the Fire Service is going to have its place, as was stated in the N. F. P. A. News Letter recently.

This is something that we could debate for a long time, and perhaps every one of us has a little peeve that he might add to the picture. However, I would like to keep those little peeves out of a discussion of this kind, unless it could be constructive.

However, if any one has a constructive thought perhaps along the lines that Chief Eames spoke, we would be glad to have it brought up now.

Kyle Laughlin is with us, and he might like to take our thoughts back with him. I will throw this matter open to discussion by anybody who wants to speak about it. And don't be backward about coming forward.

CHIEF KIMBALL of Hingham: Mr. Moderator, as a Fire Chief, I say definitely "No" but as a Civil Defense Director, that is different. The Acts of 1950 specifically set out what the Civil Defense will participate in, as well as the Acts on Sabotage.

I agree with Chief Eames that my Department will have to go on it, but I think that when you get right down to brass tacks, the Civil Defense

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would function in a particular fashion in disasters, and I was happy to find out that we are going to have the Fire Service represented in the F.C.D.A. because that is where it starts.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: Mr. Kyle Laughlin is going to speak later, and you will have an opportunity to hear what is going on in Civil Defense, and you will have an opportunity to speak to him while you are here.

Here is another question: Why doesn't the Insurance Rating Division allow credit for radio communication equipment installed in Fire Departments?

Evidently, there is no credit allowed for the installation of radio equipment on fire apparatus, by the Rating Boards. Starting, now, at my right, Brother Potter, what have you to say, quickly, about that?

CHIEF POTTER: I can't answer the question; that is a question that will have to be answered by the Rating Board. But, it does seem reasonable to expect some consideration, because I don't think that any of us will disagree with the fact that a Department which is radio-equipped is more efficient than a Department which is not so equipped, and when there is more efficiency in the Department, that should merit some consideration by the Rating Board, I believe.

CHIEF MARSHALL: I don't think that I have much to comment, further, over what Stuart has just said. We all know that radio is a tremendous asset in fire fighting operations, and I think that possibly you could say that you should get at least 40 or 50 per cent more usage of your companies, particularly on false alarms or fill-ins. The end of the line of communications used to be the fire station; today, they are right back in service, and they don't even have to get out of their car. Why, you could go on, forever, talking about the wonderful things in radio today, in relation to the Fire Service.

CHIEF CORCORAN: My thoughts are probably the same as Chief Marshall's, and, while I am not entirely radio-equipped, I am near the top. I have asked for three-way radios on all my apparatus.

CHIEF KEEFE: I think about all has been said on this subject that could be said in a short time, and I agree with the the former speakers.

CHIEF HOLMES: I have nothing to add; it has all been said.

CHIEF MURRAY: My answer would be the same as the question. Why?

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: Now, is there any one in the audience who wants to speak about this matter? I am sure that we can get some questions of the audience on this.

CHIEF CROMPTON of Portsmouth: The underwriters know the number of radios, and they go so far as to recommend them; why not recognize it, then?

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: That is right to the point. Is there anybody here from the National Board? Percy, I see that you are hiding under a chair, back there. Drag him out, even though I understand he has ulcers!

MR. PERCY CHARNOCK: My disposition is very poor today, because of my ulcers. I don't know that the National Board or any rating organization has, as yet, come out with any recommendations for radio equipment. But, I can say this: that at the present time, of course, no particular credit has been



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allowed in the grading or rating of a Fire Department, whether they do or do not have radio equipment.

However, the rating schedule is now under revision, and I am confident that there will be some provisions in it calling for radio equipment on fire apparatus, so that we may be in a position where credit can be allowed.

Now, just digressing a bit, about some of the new things that have come along in the Fire Departments, you will recall that many of the people now are crying about having aerial laboratory trucks; unless it is a city or town that has tall buildings, no credit should be allowed.

Those are the things that we are thinking about and we are weaving them into a revised rating schedule for Fire Departments.

I can assure you that there will be some credit allowed for radio equipment on fire apparatus.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: Thank you very much. Do you mind if we kind of lean on you, then. It is said that if you want anything done, get a busy man to do it, because nobody else has the time. That is the kind of man we have just heard from. And I am sure our own interests will be pretty well taken care of down there in that office.

Does that answer the question? I believe it does, and we don't need to carry on this discussion any further.

Speeding along a little bit, we have an interesting question, here, which I think could be touched upon quickly, too.

Should a blow torch be used in the removal of paint?

Now, that's a good question. Is there any one on the Panel who has any valuable thoughts on that, any positive thoughts? Do we want to go down the line and commit ourselves on that?

CHIEF CORCORAN: We all know what it is to use a blow torch on a house, in removing paint. Many of the tradesmen will come to the Fire Chief and ask him:

"What am I going to do, Chief? Have I got to get a permit?"

Now, from my observation, and I have looked into the matter, I have asked individuals in the insurance game, and they say that it might be a smart thing for the individual to get some sort of waiver on his insurance policy, in the event of anything happening.

Other than that, if he is going to take control of the situation, to remove paint by means of a blow torch, he is really on his own, and if a fire occurs, of course he is going to get protection from the Department. But, as far as saying not to do it is concerned, he is entirely on his own, it is in his own hands.

CHIEF MARSHALL: We all know that we have had serious fires from this, and in some cases, you may go back to the same house a couple of times. They have a garden hose, there, and extinguishers. However, from every Fire Chief's point of view, blow torches should not be used for removing paint.

CHIEF POTTER: Naturally, it does present somewhat of a hazard, and a Fire Chief would be amiss in his duties if he didn't recommend against this practice.

However, I don't believe that the record is very bad, when you consider the number of cases in which these blow torches are used, as against the number of fires that actually occur from that source.

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MODERATOR WOOLLEY: I may have a victim or two over here on the port side.

CHIEF KEEFE: We have had fires in the past, Roi, and, naturally, we recommend against using the blow torch, for burning off paint. We have stopped three or four in the past from doing it, and possibly prevented fires.

CHIEF HOLMES: We have found that a good reliable painter can do it and do it all right; but, these fellows who think they can make a little easy money by going down and painting a house and using the blow torch, we have had fires set by these people.

CHIEF MURRAY: We have had a little trouble, and a couple of fires, but it hasn't been a serious problem in our town.

CHIEF ANDREWS: I want to bring out the thought that we should differentiate between the blow torch, using gasoline, where the flame comes out under stream force, and the acetylene torch, with the soft flames, which most painters use. I would say that the gasoline torch should not be used under any conditions. The acetylene torch, if there are no open joints, under the clapboards and around the corners, if used properly, does not present anywhere near the hazard. But it can still be a hazard.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: Thank you very much, Chief.

There is a second question on that subject, which John reminds me about, and which might influence these questions from the floor. Are there any New England States having regulations regarding this matter?

CHIEF SCANLON: Under Chapter 148 in Massachusetts, there have been convictions in our courts.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: Do any of the other States have any special regulations? Or any cities or towns?

CHIEF RAY WELLS: We make them come in and get a permit, and we don't allow the blow torch to be used.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: Fine, and right to the point.

Here is another question: How many fires are caused by them?

I don't think that any of us can give the answer to that right away. Every one of the Panel has said they have had fires caused by the use of a painter's torch. It is like saying: Should we use acetylene cutting equipment? You can't stop them from using it, but it has got to be used under regulations that you want to see it used under, and, safely, for you must have protective equipment.

So I will wind this question up, by asking the Secretary to read a letter from an interested member, on this subject.

SECRETARY O'HEARN: This is a letter received from one of our older members; he is looking out for his own business, as he is an insurance broker, and has been with us for a number of years. He is highly thought of in the municipality that he comes from. This letter is addressed to me, just before a meeting of our Directors held on the 11th of May, at Portsmouth; the letter is dated May 4, 1954.

I submitted this to our Directors, and we submit it to this large body, here, today.

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(Secretary O'Hearn then read the letter just referred to, regarding the advertising leaflet advising the use of the blow torch.)

Now, you are all authorities on the blow torch, and with the letter is the accompanying circular that he speaks about, showing the way to start the fire. It is quite an interesting subject, and it is an old one.

I have been trying to find cities and towns that had some regulations. I don't think that the permit for an outside fire, as such, in Massachusetts, would hold. I don't believe that is the purpose of a Section of Chapter 148. We know of no State that has reported having regulations.

I would like to see this Association go on record as answering this communication, and seeing what could be done about it.

CHIEF SCANLON: There are two representatives of the State Fire Marshall's Office here, and I wonder if we could have the opinion of one of these gentlemen.

LT. INSPECTOR JOSEPH KIERNAN: I believe that in Massachusetts, we could get a conviction for burning in the open. And, the Chief, over here, mentions that he has already done that.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: Thank you very much.

Chief Thomas, did you have in mind the work done by the International at any time on that?

This question goes further than that, for it is on the question of the wrong advertising, and it is not alone the question of a regulation, which may be poor, but it is the promulgation of these wrong ideas to the public, which I think is so evil. It goes beyond the entire State of Massachusetts or of any of the States here in New England, as a matter of fact.

I believe that there is a policy involved, here, which you might want to mention.

CHIEF THOMAS: As a matter of policy, let me state one instance that is comparable to that particular subject, but not related to it.

Our General Manager, John Gerletti, within two weeks, got hold of a circular, advertising equipment for home use, and this circular, in a very broad way, said:

"Fire Chief approved."

We felt that it was misrepresentation, of course, and the General Manager has written, in the name of the International Association, condemning that type of advertising, and, Roi, we would be very happy if our Secretary, John O'Hearn, or any of the officers of the New England Association so desired, to take that communication that you have, there, and treat it accordingly, or let this Association do it, and we would be very glad to do the same thing.

I, too, believe that it is very, very bad advertising, if not misrepresentation.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: We are getting down to some cases, now. John O'Hearn has an idea that this might well be referred to the Resolutions Committee. I am not empowered to present motions, or to second them, but our President is right here. Mr. President, if you desire to entertain a motion from the floor that this might be submitted to the Resolutions Committee for action, perhaps some one would make such a motion.

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At this time, Gentlemen, I am going to turn the meeting back to our President.

(President Fortier then assumed the Chair.)

PRESIDENT FORTIER: Does any one wish to make a motion on this important matter?

CHIEF RAY WELLS: I move that this matter of the misrepresentation in advertising be referred to the Resolutions Committee.

This motion was duly seconded by Chief Scanlon and other members present and was carried.

PRESIDENT FORTIER: I will now turn this meeting back to Roi Whoolley. (Moderator Woolley then resumed the Chair.)

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: Thank you, Mr. President. Usually, when you have a Panel of this kind, you hear a lot of words, and there's a lot of discussion, and everybody goes away, saying: "Gee, but that was swell; but, what was accomplished?"

It is like the old days of William Jennings Bryan; everybody said that he was the greatest speaker in the world, and that he was wonderful; but, nobody could remember what he said.

Well, we have gotten some action here today, and we are going to get more action. And we can get some action, and that's what I like about these organizations.

CHIEF ANDREWS: It might be of interest to mention that at least in two cases in New Bedford, over a period of several years, where there had been a fire from burning off paint, the insurance company paid the loss to the owner of the property, and then the insurance company turned around and sued the painter for the damage to the said property, and collected from the painter. So it seems as though the insurance companies do have that redress in law. And furthermore, it is easy for them to prove negligence on the painter's part, where he sets the house on fire.

As I say, that has been done in at least two cases in our city.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: And now, I think that we have taken even much more than our allotted time, and I know that it has been through the courtesy of the other speakers to come, who have been willing to make changes in their program, so that we could go on with the Panel Discussion.

We have only seven minutes more, and if any one has any questions from the floor, we would be glad to have them at this time.

CHIEF SCANLON: May I say, Mr. Moderator, that the questions that have not been answered this afternoon, the written questions, are going back into the box, and they will be used at tomorrow morning's Panel Session.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: If there are no more questions from the floor at this time, I should like to summarize, by saying this. I think that in matters of policy, this organization has set itself forward on numerous occasions, with benefit to the whole Fire Service of the nation.

We have protested, during the past few years, about the indiscriminate broadcasting of emergencies, by the radio and TV people. We have, protested about the wrong use of the highways, by curiosity seekers. I hope that we

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can discuss that, tomorrow, and a great many of you men ought to consider that. And, we have brought up numerous other matters, here, which have been resolved among us and which have gone forward to the N. F. P. A., the International Association and the National Board. I know that we all have a very healthy respect for the New England Association of Fire Chiefs, and we could be remiss if we failed to carry on this progressive work.

In conclusion, may I thank the Panel, for they have taken it on the chin, so to speak. And I want to thank the audience for their courteous attention, for they not only have had to listen to the Panel, but they have had to listen to me.

Thank you very much! Our part of the program is now adjourned! (Applause.)

(President Fortier then resumed the Chair.)

PRESIDENT FORTIER: Gentlemen, our speaker this afternoon is Captain Daniel A. Murphy, Department of Public Safety, Detective of the Massachusetts State Police, and he is going to address you on the subject of "Arson and Related Offenses."

Captain Murphy! (Applause.)

CAPTAIN DANIEL A. MURPHY, Detective, Massachusetts State Police: Mr. President, and members of the New England Association of Fire Chiefs, and Guests. The subject of my talk here, "Arson and Related Offenses," I should like to refer to as instructive and informative. It has to do with one of the oldest, primitive statutes known to man. It runs along with the three major crimes, murder, arson and rape.

This subject of "Arson and Related Offenses" is one that police officials, as well as fire officials, apparently, do not recognize just where the jurisdiction lies and the responsibility for the apprehension and detection, and then the conviction of persons of this nature.

It is closely related to the Fire Services because, like an officer on the beat, the Fire Department is first to arrive at the scene, and in that way, the preservation of evidence is naturally the first order of investigation. Like the officer on the beat, he finds the presence of a crime, and he will protect the evidence, and, in doing that well, he does well his duty, because from there, on, his responsibility lies with other men of the Police Department, who are assigned to investigative work.

The gathering of facts in arson cases is recognized as one of the toughest crimes to combat. That is the main reason that the set-up in Massachusetts, as we have it for the investigation of this type of work, was recognized, and the Legislature, in its wisdom, then, put it into the hands of trained police officers, whose duty at that time solely was to combat incendiarism. Then, following down through the years, this system still is in effect, and it has proven over and over again that it behooves any Commonwealth or State to recognize that, and to combat incendiarism as a separate and a distinct field in law, and in law enforcement. Indeed, it is a specialized field in criminal investigations.

With that preface, I will go into the subject and bring it more forcibly to you.



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Under Common Law, the crime of Arson was well defined by Blackstone as "the malicious and wilful burning of the house of another," but since that time, an avalanche of statutes has overwhelmed this definition, so that its former scope is interesting only in a historical sense. Where it was originally confined to dwellings and nearby buildings, it is now extended to all manner of structures, etc. Where it formerly protected only the habitation of man, it now covers personal property and even crops.

Once, it was limited to burning the house of another, and now, one may be convicted if he burns his own property. Arson has always been regarded by the law as a heinous and most aggravated offense, for not only does it endanger human life and the security of habitations, but it evidences a moral recklessness and depravity in the perpetrator. The offense is marked with the most deliberate and atrocious malice. It is not perpetrated in the heat of passion, but coolly and stealthily, and without any view of pecuniary gain, and the consequences are such as no mind which is not utterly hardened and depraved, can even contemplate with complacency.

"The crime of Arson is one of the most heinous in all the catalogue."

Blackstone ingeniously compares Arson with murder and indicates a preferential regard for the murderer.

"This is an offense of very great malignity, and much more destructive to the public than simple theft, because:

"1. It is an offense against that right of habitation, which is acquired by the law of nature, as well as by the law of society;

"2. Because of the terror and confusion that necessarily attend it; and,

"3. Lastly, because in simple theft, the thing stolen only changes its master, but still remains in use for the benefit of the public, whereas by burning, the very substance is destroyed."

It is also frequently more destructive than murder itself, of which, too, it is often the cause, since murder, atrocious as it is, seldom extends beyond the felonious act designed, whereas fire too frequently involves in the common calamity persons unknown to the incendiary, and not intended to be hurt by him, and friends, as well as enemies. It was a capital offense until more lenient statutes were reenacted in the 19th Century.

Arson, burning to defraud the insurer, and related crimes, are most generally, if not invariably, committed under the cover of darkness, at times and in a manner calculated to divert suspicion, and where no living being other than the criminal himself or those who are acting in concert with him can be present as eye witnesses thereto. In such cases, it is almost invariably true that the detection and conviction of the criminal must be based on circumstantial evidence, at least in part.

A learned author once said, and I quote:

"Circumstances are invincible proofs. They will not bend to the inclination of parties. Witnesses may be mistaken, may be corrupted; things can do neither, and therefore, so far as they do, deserve unlimited, unreserved faith. Circumstances cannot lie."

Where presumption necessarily arises from circumstances, it is more convincing and satisfactory proof than any other kind of evidence because facts cannot lie.

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Arson investigation is recognized as an important part of the work of every Police Department. It defies solution, and is very intricate—it is the easiest crime to commit, and the hardest to detect.

It is also recognized as a difficult and specialized subject, requiring first-hand knowledge of modern methods and procedures. Experience has shown that many arson cases are never properly detected, investigated and prosecuted.

Recent years have shown a great increase in this type of crime, and even more ingenious methods developed by the criminal to escape capture. These factors place a greater responsibility on our police departments and on the local, state and national organizations dealing with arson cases.

The Pyromaniac

The most difficult type of incendiary the police authorities have to contend with is the pyromaniac. He is a person whose obsession centers around fire. He is a firebug who starts fires without rhyme or reason and without any apparent motive. He is the most difficult to apprehend and convict. (A confession is invariably necessary.) Unfortunately, asylums do not hold all of these insane firebugs. They are found in practically every community and their contribution to the fire loss in the country is appalling.

Pyromania goes further, and encompasses those individuals who, for spite, revenge and jealousy set fires. This type is the most vindictive with which the police have to deal because he commits a most deliberate and dastardly act, not in the heat of passion or on the spur of the moment, but with care and deliberation, plans this wilful and malicious act.

Experience has shown that a large percentage of firebugs are youngsters of tender age. This class is usually more readily apprehended because they do not possess the cleverness and cunning which may be found in the firebug who is older. Pyromania is not confined to any class of individuals and may manifest itself in the most unexpected quarters.

Professional Torchers

A professional torch is a firemaker who sets fires for hire. In the past, this was a successful field for certain gangs, which operated in various parts of the country. A concerted drive by law enforcement agencies in the past few years has wiped out most of these arson rings. In addition to committing the crime of "burning to defraud" and so forth, they often turn to "black-mailing" the person who hired them.

Insurance Fires

The investigation of fire cases in which the motive is the burning of property, both real and personal, for the purpose of "intending to defraud" insurance companies, confronts the police with many difficult problems. In many instances, the persons involved in crimes of this kind enjoy excellent reputations, and are citizens who are well respected in their communities.

The planning of this type of crime usually takes weeks or months. It is done in the privacy of one's home or place of business, where no suspicion is

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directed toward his or her movements, until the fire has occurred. Alibis are prepared, which are usually iron-clad. You can readily appreciate that under such circumstances, a police investigator must be thorough, persistent, and evaluate all the evidence properly. He must take nothing for granted.

Elements Necessary to Support a Burning

1. That the building was burned. (*Corpus Delicti*.)
2. That it was burned by the wilful act of some person and not the result of natural causes or accident.

(a) The above can be proven by the Fire Department officials, or the personal testimony of some one who saw the fire. There must be a burning, however slight. A mere charring will not suffice. Burning of contents only will not constitute the burning of a building. If this type of burning spreads to any part of the building, you can then support a complaint of "the burning of a building."

(b) *Corpus Delicti*. The body or essence of the crime to show that one has been committed. An incendiary fire can be proven by elimination of all natural and accidental causes in the absence of circumstantial evidence, such as trailers, traps, flammables, and so forth. Most fires have a tendency to burn upwards from the point of origin. We also have what is known as drop fires. Proof of motive is not necessary, but in practice, it is well to show one.

(c) *Important Evidence.*

1. Time of alarm.
2. Identity of buildings, description and the location.
3. Photographs of inside and outside of building should be used, showing exact condition.
4. Ownership, and occupancy and control of the building should be shown. Prove ownership by the Registry of Deeds records.

(d) *Some Motives*. Pyromaniac (a person with an insane pre-disposition to incendiarism.) Sexual firebugs. Burning to defraud insurance company. To conceal a crime. To aid the commission of a crime. For spite or revenge. To destroy evidence. To settle an estate. Sale of land with buildings to be removed before a certain date. To secure a building wrecking contract. Firemen and policemen with a desire to set fires for excitement and publicity. Insurance adjusters. Contractors who want job repairing building. Strikes and labor troubles. Business rivals. Watchmen. To secure employment as a guard. To break jail. To break a lease. Homicides, intent to burn the occupant.

(e) *Intent*. Intent formed after an accident fire was started is held to be competent.

(f) *Burning to Defraud the Insurance Company.*

1. Must be wilful and with intent.
2. Show motive for wanting insurance money.

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3. Show the property is insured.

4. Secure the policies as evidence. If they are not available, service notice on defendant to produce original copies.

5. Some reason for burning to defraud: Newly placed insurance. Increased insurance. Insurance policies about to expire or notice of cancellation having been given. Demand for payment of over-due premiums.

6. Some observations in cases of insurance fires: Look for goods moved out before the fire, and also goods brought in after the fire. If contents are over-insured, have inventory made to show real value. To establish a lack of business, check bank account, deposits and ledgers. Also, question employees, clerks, and so forth.

(g) *Methods of Establishing a Motive in Defrauding Cases.* Statement of the accused that he hoped the place would burn. Poor business. Notes due. Mortgage interest unpaid, and due. Taxes overdue. Rent overdue. Mortgage foreclosing impending. Notice of foreclosure unless requirements are met. Attachments. Hopelessly in debt. Store overstocked. Letters of refusal to fulfil orders because of credit reports or bills. Employees' payroll due. Seasonable business at end and seasonable goods unsold. Failure to receive expected orders. Cancellation of orders already received. Desire to leave the locality and locate somewhere else. Having outgrown present quarters and desire to move into other quarters or, add to present quarters.

(h) *Attempt to burn.* There are three essential elements in this category:

1. Intent to eventually set fire.

2. Performance of some act toward the commission of the crime.

3. Failure to consummate the crime.

(i) *Some Observations at Scene of Fire.*

Possession of keys. Security of premises. Any indication of separate fires. Any flammable fluids, or compounds used. Any traps or trailers used. Did flames appear to have been accelerated? And so forth.

A flash fire is one that spreads rapidly over an area, burning only the surface.

(j) *Flammable Fluids Used for Fires.*

Gasoline, kerosene, benzine, rubber cements, lacquer, metal polish, stove polish, fuel oil, varnoline, paint remover, alcohol, turpentine, benzol, naphtha, varnish, bronzing and gilding fluid, cresote, cleaning fluids, linseed oil.

(k) *Flammable compounds used for Fires.*

Flammable film, celluloid, powders, dynamite, phosphorus, detonators, thermite, blasting caps, blasting fuses.

(l) *Other Causes.*

Gas jets allowed open. Some bombs cause fires. Oil burners, oil pipe broken off, sprinklers shut off, over-fusing of electric wires.

(m) *Trailers.* May be made of paper, hay, straw, cloth, cotton, lace curtains, leaves, rugs, mattresses, decorations, fireworks material, strips or chips of cellulose, celluloid articles (anything that can convey fire from one point to another may be a trailer).

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Investigations of Incendiary Fires

In order to be productive of results, incendiary fires require great scrutiny and persistent inquiry. The success or failure of an investigation depends upon the thoroughness and attention to details given by the investigator.

Arson investigation defies solution. It is very intricate. Search cannot overlook anything. Evaluate all evidence properly. Theory should not come until afterwards. This is a criminal matter of the first order, and police departments should recognize it. Every element of a criminal investigation is found in Arson investigation.

This is definitely a police problem, and not a fire department problem. Unquestionably, excellent results in this specialized field of police endeavor have been obtained because police officials assigned to his duty recognize that it is difficult to prove these cases, unless intelligent and persistent methods are employed.

There are two agencies that consistently render valuable service to police departments in Arson Investigations. They are, the National Board of Fire Underwriters, the New York and Mutual Investigation Bureau of Chicago, Illinois.

Thank you very much, Gentlemen! (Applause.)

PRESIDENT FORTIER: Thank you, Captain. Are there any questions that any one desires to ask the Captain?

If not, I declare this session adjourned, and our next meeting is tomorrow morning at nine-thirty o'clock.

(Whereupon, the Tuesday Afternoon Session was adjourned at five-twenty o'clock.)

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Wednesday Morning, June 23, 1954

The Wednesday Morning Session convened at 9:45 o'clock, on June 23, 1954, with President Fortier presiding.

PRESIDENT FORTIER: The meeting will please come to order. I wish to apologize for changing our order of business, Mr. Laughlin was scheduled on yesterday afternoon's program.

It is now my pleasure to introduce to you Mr. Kyle Laughlin, Director of the Fire Service Division, of the Federal Civil Defense Administration, of Washington, D. C. He is going to address you on the subject of "Civil Defense."

Mr. Laughlin! (Applause.)

PROBLEMS OF FIRE FROM MODERN WARFARE

KYLE P. LAUGHLIN, *Washington, D. C.*

It is an honor and a privilege to be here with you and to discuss the problems of fire in Civil Defense. The fundamental difference between fire as a weapon and the blast effects of high explosive action is that fire depends on the energy in the target and destruction. The energy of the bomb merely acts as a match, to produce initial fires.

Fire has been the scourge of mankind since the beginning of recorded history. In 64 A. D., Rome was set on fire with pitch torches. In the summer of 1945, atomic bombs were responsible for the destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The incendiary means have changed in the course of the centuries, but their purpose has remained the same; destruction by fire.

Devastating mass fires and fire storms have, in the course of nearly 2,000 years, ravaged the large communities. The fires may have been caused by accident or by natural forces; but, more often they have been caused by destructive weapons of war.

We are, today, confronted with the threat that in another war, our cities would be bombed by an enemy, and that the weapons that would be used would inevitably start great fires. How will these fires start? Where will they start? What materials will be the most susceptible, and what can we do to minimize the threat?

While we should not overlook in any way the possibility of incendiary bombs or ignore the threat of the match in the hands of a saboteur, I know that you are rightfully concerned, here, today, with the problem involving the use of atomic and hydrogen bombs.

In the May issue of the FIRE NEWS, published by the National Fire Protection Association, Mr. Horatio Bond, the Chief Engineer of the Association, had this to say:

"The public shock at the H-Bomb is due to the necessity for facing up to the fact that cities can be destroyed in modern war. Two years

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before the A-Bombs were dropped, this fact had been demonstrated by the British Royal Air Force, which had burned the central areas of most of the German cities. Before the United States Army Air Forces dropped the A-Bombs, they had burned 67 Japanese cities. Even persons who knew these facts chose to ignore them."

The atomic bomb and the new hydrogen bombs are huge, incendiary devices, among other things. They will start fires from the immediate thermal effect of the bomb, and by blasting disruption caused by knocking over stoves, breaking gas lines, and so forth.

While we have had exaggerated accounts of the power of new weapons to cause death and destruction, the bare truth about these bombs is sobering, indeed. Let us discuss for a moment the blast effects.

The atomic bombs dropped over Japan have been rated the equivalent of 20,000 tons of TNT. They are called 1(x) bombs. Larger bombs are merely multiples of this figure. Thus, a 2(X) bomb has the equivalent of 40,000 tons; an 8(X) bomb, the equivalent of 160,000 tons, and a 50(X) bomb, that of 1,000,000 tons. This is also called a megaton bomb.

President Eisenhower has stated, officially, that existing atomic bombs are now 25 times larger than those exploded in Japan, and that hydrogen bombs, which we have been hearing so much about, are in the megaton range.

In so far as blast effects are concerned, the radius of destruction resulting from larger bombs *does not increase* in direct proportion to the increase in size of the bomb. This distance increases approximately as the cube root of the ratio of the larger to the smaller bomb. Thus, if the bomb dropped was 1,000 times more powerful than the one at Hiroshima, the radius of destruction would be the cube root of a thousand or ten times the radius of destruction which occurred at Hiroshima.

Great destructive bombs like the atomic and the hydrogen bomb are the particular enemies of large concentrations of industry and population. We can assume that the size of the weapon an enemy chooses to aim at a certain target will be governed by the size of the target. That, of necessity, would eliminate, for planning purposes anyway, the delivery of these terrific weapons on small communities or cross roads village.

I suggest that for planning purposes the target areas themselves select a size bomb which will include between one-half and all of the built-up urban complex, in the zones of A, B, and C class damage. I suggest that two-thirds of the built-up area is a practical working figure on which to hang your hats.

In an effort to destroy vital facilities more than one bomb might be used, particularly on cities that are spread out over large areas.

As for the small communities, they should in no way feel safe because the use of such big bombs would be wasteful, if aimed at them. You, of the Fire Services, know more than any other people how easy it is to set a destructive fire, and you know, also, what the effect of a few incendiaries might be. If you were not involved with fires yourselves, you must be prepared to help the communities that are.

A complete organization of mutual aid assistance across the country is imperative, if we are going to do the best job possible in controlling the fires that will result from enemy attack.

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We have discussed the blast damage zone radii, and noted that these radii scale up approximately with the cube root of the yield of the atomic or hydrogen bomb. I am sure you are wondering whether the zones of interest, as regards incendiary action, should follow the same law.

The subject is complicated by the varying attenuation effects of the slight haze normally present in the atmosphere. This always limits the range of atmosphere visibility. When you can see only a few miles, the incendiary effect of even the largest bombs cannot well extend much farther.

As a practical working principle, you can, therefore, count on fighting incendiary effects in the same blast damage zones for large bombs as for small bombs. With houses demolished in the zone of A-damage, and streets obstructed by rubble of the zone of B-damage, the zones of major interest to fire fighters will normally be the zones of C and D damage, where we would expect moderate to minor blast damage. Be ready, therefore, with the super bombs to plan to fight fires in the correspondingly enlarged zones of C and D damage. However, if the visibility is rather low at the time of any bomb drop, the area of incendiary action from the primary effects of the bomb may not extend out much farther than the zone of B damage. I emphasize that even though this situation should occur, we would have many secondary fires in the C and D zones, due to blast disruption.

You have heard, also, the most alarming things about the nuclear radiation hazard involved in the explosion of the H-bomb. May I say in this connection that it is probable that due to the size of the fire ball (probably touching the ground), the radiation hazard may be intensified. However, there is *no new type of hazard* involved in this type of explosion. The difference will be one of intensity. Furthermore, the hazard of fall-out may be intensified. The much publicized case of the Japanese fishermen is an example. The fall-out was not widespread, but seemed to be localized, which is typical of fall-out.

I have here with me a copy of the much discussed film, "Operation Ivy," Some of you may have seen this, but, undoubtedly, many of you have not, and I should like to show it to you. However, before I do that, I want to tell you something about the research and the tests that we made in Nevada last spring to learn more about the kind of materials that are primarily ignited by the flash of the bomb, and the numbers and arrangement of such materials which would be exposed to the flash. We demonstrated that solid wood surfaces and other common building materials are not expected to be ignited directly by atomic bomb thermal radiation, beyond the range of substantial blast damage. Only those materials which we call kindling fuels will be initially ignited. And, for the purposes of our study of this problem, we divide kindling fuels into three classes, as follows:

1. Transient exterior fuels, materials such as dead grass, fallen leaves, and discarded papers which are found in outdoor locations and whose occurrence varies over a period of time.
2. Fixed exterior fuels, materials functioning as an integral part of fixed structures, such as rotted wood fences.
3. Interior fuels, building contents such as window coverings, upholstery, fabrics, magazines, and newspapers.

Prior to our tests in Nevada of last spring, we made a study of six major

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cities of the United States, representative of the South, Northeast, Middle West, and the West Coast.

We divided these cities up into what we called use-class areas, such as slum residential, good residential, large manufacturing, small manufacturing, neighborhood retail, downtown retail area, and so forth.

In these areas, we counted the piles of rubbish and debris which could be ignited directly by thermal action of the bomb, and which could spread fire to buildings and the like.

We compared these results, and found a surprising uniformity in the distribution of these primary ignition fuels in the cities surveyed by use-class. And, the distribution was similar for cities of 300,000 to three million population and larger cities of all sections of the country.

Paper was the most common kindling material and accounted for three-fourths of all ignition points tallied. Cardboard comprised between 10 and 20 per cent of the total, with heavier concentrations in wholesale and manufacturing districts. In downtown retail areas, awnings were the major exterior kindling fuel. The average ignition points per acre for the use classes established in this study were the following:

Wholesale, 25 to 30; slum residential, 20; neighborhood retail, 10 to 15; poor residential, 9; small manufacturing, 7; downtown retail, good residential and large manufacturing, below 5.

In Nevada, we tested these kindling materials in various arrangements simulating their occurrence in the six cities studied. The results of these tests were shown to you on your television screens last October, during Fire Prevention Week, in a short, black-and-white picture called, "The House in the Middle." A new color version in more detail has now been prepared by the Paint and Varnish Industry, with our cooperation, and I would like to show you this film, along with "Operation Ivy" at the conclusion of these remarks.

The influence of all of this on fire prevention clean-up campaigns, and the removal of hazards is obvious, and it is enormous. Our study of the frequency of exterior kindling fuels taught us that we could have more than 10,000 primary ignitions per square mile in slum residential and wholesale use-class areas. These figures are only concerned with exterior kindling. They do not include fires that would be started on interiors by the primary effect of the bomb igniting curtains, rugs, papers and the like; or the secondary fires caused by blast disruption. An estimate or probability of the number of these interior fires is not yet available, and it is a gap in our knowledge. However, I can assure you that serious thought and attention are being given to these problems.

I believe that our greatest hope in minimizing the fire effects of enemy bombing is obvious from what has gone before. By good fire prevention measures, by clean-up of junk and rubbish to a degree never before contemplated, by the training of people in homes in the extinguishment of small fires started by these kindly materials, and by the organization of the fire services for mutual aid and mobile support in which all equipment and personnel will be put to the best use, we will have done the best we can, and will have planned wisely for any attack that might be launched against us.

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And if, in God's mercy, we are spared such an attack the measures that we have been discussing here in the last few minutes will bear results in a decrease of peacetime fires, and a saving of many lives.

I want to say something, before closing, and before we see the picture, about the place of the Fire Service in Federal Civil Defense Administration. Some months ago, the Fire Advisory Committee took action to correct the down-grading of the Fire Service in the administrative structure. The membership of this Committee includes Chief Thomas, President of the International, John Neale, the Chief Engineer of the National Board of Fire Underwriters, Mr. Fred Sheppard, Managing Editor of FIRE ENGINEERING, Mr. Bond, the Chief Engineer of the N. F. P. A., George Richardson, the Secretary-Treasurer of the Firefighters, Richard Vernon, the head of the Memphis Fire Department Instructors' Conference and of the Western Actuarial Bureau, John Alderson, Chief of the Fire Department of Los Angeles, and Mr. Iverson, the Fire Marshal of Nebraska.

Due to their efforts, the Fire Services are now given a higher rank in Washington, and the way has been cleared for us to push forward.

What you have heard about the combination of Fire and Rescue Services is now at an end, and the Fire Services are now constituting an independent office, which is the highest rank the Fire Services have ever occupied in the administration in Washington.

It seems to me that it is up to the Fire Services to take advantage of the change in atmosphere, and give increased attention to the enormous needs for fire defense, and to organize and train to the fullest and utilize to the fullest the great devotion of the Fire Services to combat, in case the bomb should fall, the greatest threat of all, the threat of fire.

And now, let us see these pictures that I have promised you. (Applause)

(The motion pictures of "The House in the Middle" were then shown.)

PRESIDENT FORTIER: Thank you very much, Mr. Laughlin, for having delayed your talk to us and these pictures from yesterday afternoon to this morning. We have certainly enjoyed your talk, and the pictures. (Applause)

The speaker who is scheduled to speak at the end of the Round Table Discussion has been moved ahead, and we are now going to hear an address by Mr. Edward R. Chasson, Supervisor, Sales Promotion and Training, the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company, on the subject of, "The Role of the Telephone in Fire Reporting."

Mr. Chasson! (Applause)

MR. EDWARD R. CHASSON: Mr. Chairman, Members of the New England Association of Fire Chiefs, and Guests. I appreciate very much the opportunity of participating in this, the thirty-second Annual Conference of your Association. The opportunity is especially stimulating because of the high purpose of your organization. Your aim, to improve and develop methods and techniques for the protection of life and property, is unexcelled.

In reflecting on this purpose, I recall that the very first sentence intelligibly transmitted by the telephone was a call for help. Alexander Graham Bell impulsively called out to his assistant:

"Mr. Watson, come here; I want you!"

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Mr. Bell had been ready to test a crude telephone, when he accidentally upset a battery and spilled acid on his clothing. The telephone had picked up his words, and sent them over a wire to a room down the hall where Watson was listening.

Since that historic night in March, 1876, the telephone and telephone employees have been "friends in need" to thousands of people in times of emergency. Some of these emergencies have had to do with fire, and, as a result, there has built up through the years a close companionship between the work of telephone people and the work of firemen. It is a companionship in the spirit of service, and it has bred a mutual respect.

A number of you men who are here today have made our employees very happy by telling them, verbally, and in writing, of your appreciation of their cooperation and help. May I, in turn, in expressing the thanks of our people, tell you that we are grateful for this recognition, and that we are proud to have the opportunity to serve you in your wonderful work.

Today, the role of the telephone in fire reporting is twofold. Everybody knows the way the telephone is used from homes and places of business to report fires. And, besides this familiar method, there is the reporting of fires from telephones which are directly connected to fire department headquarters, and are available to the public twenty-four hours a day at street locations selected by the municipality.

Let us review these two methods separately, and in the order in which they came into being.

The first method dates back to the early days of the telephone. As the number of telephones grew, the proportion of fires reported by means of the telephone grew, also, until today, the alarms received from telephones in private residences and places of business are very large in number.

An outgrowth of this increase in the number of telephone alarms was a request from many of the smaller communities for the local telephone operators to sound a public signal when they received a report of a fire. These requests came largely from communities that did not have firemen on duty at the fire station at all times. In order to best meet the needs of such communities, a different method of handling fire calls was developed. This method, with which many of you are familiar, has come to be known as the "Red Network System," a designation derived from the color of the telephone instruments.

This system consists of a special telephone line connecting several telephones located in places of business or in residences. These locations are selected by the town. The fire chief arranges to have an authorized person available at one of these locations at all times, so that reports of fire can be received and acted upon.

The telephone number of the red network is listed in the telephone directory as the one to be dialed to report a fire. Dialing this number causes the bells at all telephones on the network to ring simultaneously, so that the call can be answered at one or more of the locations where someone in authority can sound an outside alarm or take any other action which is required.

The red network telephones do not have dials, and therefore, they can be used only for receiving incoming emergency calls. A regular exchange service

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JAMES B. ELLSWORTH, Kensington, Conn.

dial telephone is required at each location where there is a red network telephone to enable those receiving reports of a fire to make necessary outgoing calls.

This service was introduced fifteen years ago, and it is now being furnished in some 200 communities served by the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company. It is a very satisfactory service, and experience indicates that it is meeting, adequately, the needs of these communities.

The second part played by the telephone in fire reporting is comparatively new. In recent years, the officials of a number of municipalities in various sections of the country have requested the local telephone company to furnish information, concerning the installation and maintenance of an emergency telephone reporting system, which would be available to the public. The first major installation of this kind in Bell System territory was made in Miami, Florida, last year.

In the territory served by our company, no such municipal system has yet been furnished, although a request for a proposal covering a telephone reporting system has been received.

As you may know, we are furnishing police reporting systems for the use of police officers, and have been for many years.

We also furnish, upon request, emergency telephone reporting systems on military reservations. These systems are quite similar to the service requested by municipalities, because they provide for direct connection to a switchboard in the post fire station, from a number of outdoor telephones installed in unlocked weather proof boxes at various points throughout the military establishment. This service has been furnished since 1941, at a number of locations.

Upon the receipt of this request from the municipality in our territory, we felt it was our responsibility, both as a public utility and as a good neighbor, to do whatever we could to assist with the city's problems.

The Engineering and other aspects were studied in detail and information was secured from other areas in the Bell System, where similar requests have been received. Our company recognized that the furnishing of such service entails problems in connection with liability and would require the filing and approval of appropriate regulations and tariffs. No such approval has been requested because the company has not received an order for the service.

We advised the city making inquiry, that, subject to Department of Public Utilities approval of appropriate regulations and tariff, our company was willing to serve. We provided a description of a telephone system which we could furnish, explaining that the emergency reporting system would incorporate special features, including continuous testing equipment, not ordinarily required for telephone service. In general, the information furnished describes the type of emergency telephone reporting system which has been in use in Miami, since August, 1953.

For your information, I have prepared a resume of the basic features and method of operation of a typical fire reporting system, which, upon request, might be provided by the telephone company. Telephone instruments, equipped with retractile cords, would be mounted in suitable weather-proof boxes at locations indicated by the city. The doors to these boxes would be without locks, and equipped with special springs for closing the doors. The city, in addition to providing pole, pedestal or wall mountings, and, if desired, boxes

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for the telephones, would install conduit from each box to the company's nearest cable terminal or to some suitable point. Each telephone would be connected by a separate pair of wires to a private branch exchange switchboard at fire headquarters.

Any one wishing to report an emergency could open the door of a box and remove the telephone hand-set, which faces the door. This transmits a signal directly to the Fire Department switchboard, without handling by telephone company personnel.

The signal identifies the box by number, and appears on a special locked-in-lamp, so that even if the calling party is unable to talk intelligibly, or in excitement, cannot talk at all, or replaces the telephone before the Fire Department representative at the switchboard can answer, the attendant will know the location from which the call is made.

The switchboard would be operated continuously by an attendant. Calls from emergency reporting telephones would be received at the switchboard, and, in this respect, the alarms from telephone street boxes would be handled in the same manner as those now received from regular telephones.

As described previously, each emergency telephone would have its own circuit to the special Fire Department's switchboard, so that the street location is known independently of any voice message. If it is desired that there be more than one point on the same premises from which an alarm can be given, extension telephones could be added to that line. At a hospital, for example, two telephones at different points near the building, could terminate on the same lamp on the switchboard, thus indicating the hospital location, regardless of the instrument used.

Normally, each emergency telephone line will terminate on an individual line lamp on the switchboard. Each emergency telephone will also be provided with its own trouble lamp, associated with a continuous test feature. The latter will be wired to a major signal, in the telephone central office. The more common troubles on any lines, such as an open condition and some circuit grounds, will operate the trouble lamp on that line at Fire Headquarters, and the major signal in the telephone company central office. In such an event, telephone company personnel will check with the switchboard attendant at fire alarm headquarters to determine the location of the telephone in trouble.

Another major signal will operate in the telephone central office, if there is failure of either the commercial power supply or continuous test features at fire headquarters.

A third type of trouble, comprising short circuits, and certain grounds will cause a permanent signal on the line lamp similar to that caused by a telephone off the hook.

In all probability, fire apparatus would be dispatched to the call-box location in every case where a line signal appears and no voice is heard by the switchboard attendant.

It is recognized that this condition will most frequently arise because some one lifts the telephone from the hook to give an alarm, but is too excited to speak or does not remain at the telephone to do so. A certain number of such signals may be false alarms, either because the telephone has been maliciously removed or because of trouble on the lines, but it will be assumed that all permanent signals represent attempts to report a fire.

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When the apparatus reaches the scene, and there is no fire, the officer in charge would test the telephone from the box. If he cannot talk to the attendant, he might reach the latter over the mobile-radio on the fire truck and report the telephone out-of-order, and place an out-of-order sign on the box door. The attendant will notify the telephone company of the situation.

The switchboard will be equipped with two audible signals, a buzzer associated with the line lamps which indicates a call from a telephone alarm box and a bell associated with the trouble lamps. The buzzer will sound, whenever a line lamp lights, to attract the attendant's attention to the call. It stops when he inserts a cord to answer the call, extinguishing the light. The key provided on an ordinary switchboard which allows the attendant to turn off the audible signal will be omitted from this board. However, since the audible signal sounding on a second call might interfere with hearing on a prior connection on which the attendant is still talking, a foot switch would be provided, which will silence the buzzer for as long as the attendant keeps foot pressure on the switch. A bell will sound when a trouble lamp lights. It can be silenced only by the attendant inserting a cord into the associated line jack, and leaving it there.

The bell is not prevented from sounding if another trouble lamp lights, while a cord is in the first one. The presence of the cord in the jack is a continual reminder to the attendant of a trouble on that line. When it has been cleared, the telephone company advises him, the trouble lamp is extinguished by the clearance, and the cord may be removed without the bell ringing again.

Emergency reporting lines on the switchboard are arranged in groups, each of which has a pilot light which comes on when a call is made from any line in the group. Protective measures against disruption of the system by burned-out lamps are provided by periodic tests; by the design of the major signals in the telephone office, which function independently of lamp operation; by the sounding of the audible signals on the switchboard, even if a lamp does not work; and, by providing a method by which the switchboard attendant can quickly ascertain which line is causing an audible signal without a light appearance. To do so, the attendant tests successively with one of his cords each of the thirty lines in the group whose pilot light is on. This operation would require only a few seconds, and the audible signal would cease as soon as he plugs into the line on which the lamp is burned out.

Arrangements would be made by the telephone company in the interest of public safety, for emergency handling, day or night, of any troubles detected or reported on the system. Restoration after service failures, caused by a major disaster, would take precedence over all other services with the possible exception of operational military and civil defense installations, which would be given equal priority.

One other aspect of fire reporting arrangements has to do with customer owned automatic fire detection systems. At the present time, the telephone company provides leased channels which terminate in equipment furnished by others than the telephone company for this purpose. The question has been raised as to the possibility of connecting sprinkler and private alarm circuits directly to the emergency telephone reporting switchboards. The problems involved are now being studied. Currently, fire detection devices of this kind

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may be connected to an alarm system separate from the emergency telephone reporting switchboard. A city may make arrangements to install an annunciator cabinet or recorder, purchased or leased from a private company, with all sprinkler alarms terminating in that apparatus at fire headquarters.

With respect to rates and charges for a telephone reporting system, regular service connection charges and monthly rates would apply for the telephones, outdoor boxes, circuits and central office trunks. Special monthly charges would apply for the switchboard and associated equipment. There would be a minimum service period of ten years for the switchboard with termination charges being reduced 1/120 for each month these arrangements remain in service.

Any negotiations considered to be necessary with the fire underwriters concerning fire insurance classifications would be handled by the city government. In this connection, the telephone company would furnish detailed information which might be needed about the arrangements under consideration.

Even though I have reviewed with considerable detail the emergency fire reporting service, which would be furnished by the telephone company, I wish to make clear that we have not been promoting the sale of this service. Our position is that, upon the request of a city or town government, we shall furnish information as to the type and kind of service we can provide, and, if the municipality, after obtaining all the facts, asks our company to install and maintain such a service, we shall do so, always provided that this company can obtain approval of appropriate regulations and tariff from the State regulatory bodies.

It has been very enjoyable to talk to you today, and to meet personally, many members of your splendid association. I know that I am speaking for every telephone employee when I say that all of us consider it an honor to serve men whose lives are devoted to the protection of life and property—the firemen!

Thank you very much! (Applause.)

PRESIDENT FORTIER: Thank you, Mr. Chasson. Are there any questions that any one wishes to ask Mr. Chasson, while he is here?

DEPUTY CHIEF CLOUGHERTY of Boston: Of course, I have a regular telephone in my home. And I believe that it would be hard to convince the ordinary person that he should go to the corner, where they have a telephone there, when they have a telephone right in their own home.

In other words, the fire alarm box would be practically out of existence, and they would use their own phones.

Now, I would go out and pull a fire alarm box, knowing that under those conditions, I would get the apparatus up in a hurry.

What I am trying to bring out here is this: How would you convince the ordinary person not to use their own telephone? He would get the same results, in his opinion.

It would have to be an educational program, in order to make him realize that the telephone in the house may be plugged up with other calls, and that he would have to go to the corner.

I think that we would have quite a problem, to teach a person how to use the fire alarm box system.

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CONN.

MR. CHASSON: I think that that is right; it would be an educational problem.

In the event that this service were in use in the street boxes, it would be telephone service, and the principal difference would be that the telephones in the street boxes would be connected directly to Fire Department headquarters.

MR. CLOUGHERTY: I understand the difference, but to make the public understand it, that is something that must be done in the way of an educational campaign.

Now, the ordinary person today will disregard going to the fire alarm boxes, in many cases. So that, can you expect an ordinary person, having nothing to do with the Fire Service, to go out in the street?

MR. CHASSON: I suppose that that would be a decision for the municipality to make and decide what they might wish to do about that?

MR. CLOUGHERTY: Then, there is the matter of possible labor troubles in the telephone organization throughout the country, and in the event of these labor troubles, how would that affect us? The Company would have no control over it, as I see such a situation.

MR. CHASSON: Of course, we do not anticipate having any difficulty of that sort. But, I think that the answer to that question would be that in the event of anything of that sort taking place, all vital services that are necessary for the protection of life and property would be maintained.

MR. CLOUGHERTY: Most of us have labor troubles of one kind or another. But, we are associated with the Fire Department, and our maintenance is guaranteed, continuously, throughout the country. Whereas, you would have to have a continuous maintenance guarantee. You couldn't work things out, because labor or no labor, that service would have to go on.

MR. CHASSON: That is very true. I feel confident that in the event of anything of that sort taking place, any service that the Telephone Company office would have, would be maintained for the protection of the public.

CHIEF LANE of North Brookfield: I happen to represent a strong community at North Brookfield, and there are three of us concerned, there; there is North Brookfield, East Brookfield, West Brookfield, and Brookfield. Used on the red base phone, it ties in well with the Fire Service, because of the incoming calls. Now, North Brookfield happens to be the exchange service, so that a person from Brookfield, and this happens time and time again, or West Brookfield or East Brookfield, calls in and say they have a fire on Crescent Street or Crescent Avenue, then I am supposed to be a master-mind either that, or ask these people whether they live in Brookfield or East Brookfield, or what town do they live in, and by the time that they recall the operator and get back onto the service again, a period of three to five minutes has elapsed. That, I know from experience.

Now, if you could only train the public in the communities to call their own Fire Department number, it would be swell, but you are not setting up the operators in Worcester and specifically asking them to find out where that fire is, whether it is in East Brookfield, or West Brookfield.

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MR. CHASSON: I think you have a good point there, Chief Lane. And, as mentioned here yesterday, when the Panel was talking about false alarms, there is a large amount of educational work that seems to be necessary to get the cooperation of the public in all branches of the Fire Service.

I would suggest, in this case, Chief, that it might be well to review this specific situation with the telephone company manager for the West Brookfield area, and I know that he would be very glad to see if there is anything that can be done to assist you in taking care of the matter.

CHIEF LANE: It does seem to me that it could be taken care of in the Worcester office. Right now, I think starting this week, the warrants are going in upon our service. True enough, at least, I hope that the warrant won't start calling in on the Brookfield circuit. Then, Spencer is going to come into it. It is all within a radius of 15 or 18 miles, and it is really in the early morning hours when it takes such a long while before you can retract the circuit back from Worcester, and there is a lot of time that elapses, there, believe me.

MR. CHASSON: I think that we are all agreed that speed is of the essence in getting these reports of fire into the Fire Headquarters; there is no question about that.

I don't know whether you Chiefs have talked with Mr. Mallman, who is the Manager of the Worcester area, or not, but I would be very pleased to see that he gets in touch with you and reviews the problem which you have, there, and I am sure that he will give you the cooperation, because we are as much interested as you are.

MR. CHARNOCK: I do want to avail myself of the discussion, but I didn't know but that you might answer this gentleman here and his problem by putting in a fire alarm system in Brookfield, and then you wouldn't have this worry.

But, frankly, there is at least one point that you haven't discussed in your proposals. I believe it is the intent of the telephone company to provide a service which is comparable with that with which we are familiar, the fire alarm telegraph, and possibly substituting a telephone system for an existing fire alarm telegraph system.

You do not propose, as it is provided in telegraphy, for the recording of incoming and outgoing alarms.

I think that that point should be opened up for discussion, and we all should thoroughly understand that that feature at the present time is not being advanced by the telephone company.

You spoke of another item, too, of the guarantee feature. In our opinion, we believe that that is one of the most important functions in a municipality; to turn to the use of a telephone fire alarm system, there should be a contract and a guarantee of service, in my opinion.

Now, I would like to hear you discuss those two points.

MR. CHASSON: You will have to have in mind the dates and the time and so on. We only give this information which we have given to those towns and cities who have requested it; we have not had anything to offer in that connection, and that, of course, is a decision for the town or the city to make.

As I have stated before, we have not been promoting the service; we have not been trying to sell it. If we try to present the facts and describe

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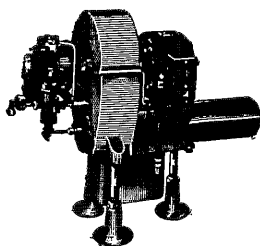
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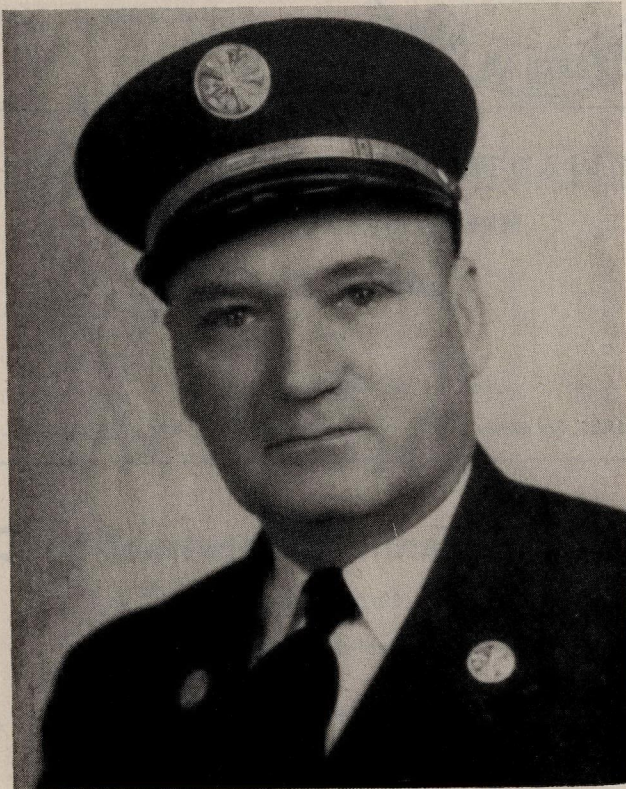
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the type of service that we could render, then the decision rests with the municipality as to what they wish to do about it.

PRESIDENT FORTIER: Are there any more questions? If not, I have a few announcements to make here.

(President Fortier then made some report announcements of Committee appointments, made previously.)

SECRETARY O'HEARN: Mr. President and members of the Association. I have a telegram from Toronto, addressed to the Secretary, as follows:

"Please convey to the Officers and Members of the New England Association my greetings and best wishes for a most successful meeting. Hope to be with you in 1955."

That is signed by Bill Scott, Fire Marshal of Canada. (Applause.)

And, from Mr. and Mrs. Smith:

"Mr. and Mrs. Smith have extended a cordial invitation for the Chiefs to join with them tonight in a pre-dinner Cocktail Party, in the Ballroom, from 6:15 to 7:00 P.M."

James Barker Smith.

And will any one who is planning to leave at any time today, please advise the desk, as that will allow them to accept incoming business.

We have a new Fire Marshal in Massachusetts, an ex-Fire Chief; Fire Marshal Robert M. Tappin of Baldwinville, and member of our Association, would like to have all Massachusetts Chiefs, whether you are a member of the Mass. Fire Chiefs' Club or not, but attending the Conference, to meet with him here in the Ball Room at 1:30 P.M. today.

PRESIDENT FORTIER: Our Round Table Discussion will now be conducted by Roi Wooley. (Applause.)

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

MODERATOR ROI B. WOOLLEY: Thank you, Mr. President. We are making one substitution on the Panel this morning. Chief Seavey of Rochester is unable to be here with us this morning, and we are going to have a very worthy substitute, Chief Walter Messier of Keene, New Hampshire.

Going down the line here, we have Chief Richard J. Frates of Bath, Maine.

Chief Walter Messier of Keene, New Hampshire.

Chief John E. Keefe of Bellows Falls, Vermont.

Chief Arthur L. Flynn of Salem, Massachusetts.

Chief Otto J. Alletag of Warren, Rhode Island.

Chief Francis J. Dagon of East Hartford, Connecticut.

Now, if I hurry a little bit too much, I am going to apologize to you and to our good stenotypist. But, if I overdo it, somebody will hold up your hand, and also, if, by any chance, you don't hear us in the rear of this Ball Room, again, hold up your hand, and we will see that you hear everything that is said.

We left off yesterday with a few questions that were unanswered. I would like, before we go into the unanswered questions, to finish up a question which was partially answered yesterday, and that is, this matter of the

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unfortunate drowning, which took place in New Jersey. Is Bill Eckman here, by any chance? Again, he is missing. So we will forego that question.

The first question today is: What is being done to protect the drivers of fire apparatus, with insurance?

Now, that is a pretty broad question, and the question is not signed, and I do not know what state it may come from. Perhaps it would call for a variety of opinions, and I think that perhaps we can start on our left, with Chief Frates of Maine. Will you kindly give us your opinion on that one, Chief?

CHIEF FRATES: Well, down at Bath, they carry insurance, on the drivers. But, did you mean a sub-driver, a spare driver, or just a regular driver?

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: I imagine, Chief, that what is meant there is possibly the question of volunteers, rather than the paid municipal drivers.

CHIEF FRATES: We don't have any volunteer drivers.

CHIEF SCANLON: That comes from a Massachusetts city, and it is a large city.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: Then, perhaps we will hold it to our Massachusetts representatives. This man is asking for information, which may come from that State, so I am going to ask Chief Flynn to tackle that one.

CHIEF FLYNN: I imagine that is a good Massachusetts question. As we know, in this State, we have the demerit system, and some of the drivers are a little apprehensive as to the application of the demerit system, and they do not want to have their driving gauged by any accidents that may occur either by their fault or somebody else's while they are driving municipally owned apparatus.

We can't blame them for that. But, I believe that they have come up with a decision in Massachusetts, where the drivers of a police and fire apparatus, are not subject to that demerit system, in their response to an emergency.

However, that does bother some of the drivers, regardless of the fact that a decision has been rendered.

In the City of Salem, all of our apparatus and the drivers are insured, and we have been for the last year and a half. So that we have no difficulty on that score.

But, I can just see where, in a good many places, it would be hard to get adequate automobile drivers, because they are a little scared of the demerit system, and any penalties that may come from an accident.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: May I interrupt you to this extent? Do all of you understand the demerit system that the Chief has mentioned? Is any one in Massachusetts not clear on this method? They evidently are.

Have you received your information, then, Mr. Questioner? Then, let us go on to the next question.

I just wish that we had time to cover all of these States, for a regional opinion. But, it is hard to have a question that pertains only to one State.

Now, taking the next question, will the Chief from Bellows Falls, Vermont, tell us if the loss on the Church structure caused by lightning was ever paid?

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In the first place, I do not know the whole story about that Church, although I understand that it was a most unusual incident.

CHIEF KEEFE: Roi, the answer to the problem is "No"; it has not been paid. I believe I talked to the maker of that question yesterday, and I explained it to him.

It is an unusual case. The fire occurred during a lightning storm in 1947. The Church, at that time, was found to be okay, the fire was in the tower. Now, nothing happened until February of this year, when a 200-pound stone straddled the Church yard, while the bell was being rung, and fell. It is going to cost approximately \$125,000 to take down this tower, and rebuild it. And, then the stone fell to the ground, the people in question put a stage up and found that the tower had been gutted out by fire.

We responded to this alarm in 1947; but, the damage was not discovered until 1954, and the people in question at the Church made application to the insurance company; they said that due to the large implications, the loss would not be paid.

That, Roi, is briefly the story on the Church.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: And it is an interesting one.

I think that that is probably the all-time classic of a delayed fire insurance claim. Certainly, it is a lesson that some of us might take to heart in this sense, that when we have a fire of anything of that nature, a fire where there might be hidden damages, with which we are not familiar or wise to, that we first make as close an inspection as possible, even to the extent of getting outside help, and secondly, that every effort be made to make a blanket claim.

In one case, in a midwest community, and it was a somewhat similar case, fortunately the claim was made, and I don't quite understand the details, but it was made on a blanket basis; the record of the claim was there, although it was a year and a half later when the evidence of the fire showed up more seriously than anticipated, and they were able to collect.

But, as the Chief pointed out to you, here is a situation which will cost the Church a great deal of money, and on which they cannot collect. It is a most unusual one. I have pleaded with him to get some pictures and the data on it, so that I could run it in FIRE ENGINEERING. I've got to get that plug in there somewhere.

Does anybody want to ask a question on this before we go on to the next question? I hope that we have covered this, Chief Keefe; if not, then you gentlemen can see the Chief afterwards.

The next question is: What effect, if any, does the shorter work week have on the operating efficiency of a Fire Department? Bingo! That's a good question, all right. I can see some of the municipal Chiefs girding up their loins right now for this one. If we thought we have a good question on the matter of the fire alarm boxes versus telephones, I think that this will take us for a ride far into the night!

Let us start at my right, with Chief Dagon.

CHIEF DAGON: I think that as far as the shorter hours during the week for firemen are concerned, if we could go ahead and get manpower to take their places, all right; but, we have a time trying to get the manpower to fill them in.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: That is it, all right. Otto, how about you?

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CHIEF ALLETAG: I have no answer to it. I have plenty of men at all times; they are not paid, so that I have no answer for that question.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: He has a volunteer department. Now, let us come down to Chief Flynn.

CHIEF FLYNN: Well, it is a problem to have the proper help in these times, and shorter hours; but, I think that it means a further responsibility on the Chief, to see that the men he has and will get are properly trained. I think that a man who is properly trained and rightly trained in the work of the Fire Department can accomplish a great deal, particularly at this time, when it is so necessary that everybody be aware of everything to do with his job.

So that the shorter hours, to my mind, while training will not provide another pair of hands, it will give the men you do have the know-how to go ahead with the kind of work that we want them to perform.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: Thank you, Chief. There is an intelligent answer.

A CHIEF FROM CONNECTICUT: We have volunteers; we are working fifty-six hours, now. What do they want, forty hours? Our paid men are now working fifty-six hours.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: We will have another volunteer department tell us about his town; at least, he is partly volunteered. Let us hear from Chief Keefe.

CHIEF KEEFE: Roi, this problem doesn't affect me on that basis. We are practically all volunteers, and we do not have the problem too much. They are always there.

CHIEF MESSER: The minute you start cutting down the hours, then the more men that you need will cost the community more money. You have to watch out, from the financial end of it, as well as the man angle, and you have to try to keep the men more efficient. We have found out that it takes seven men to run two jobs, on the basis of 1940 or 1942.

CHIEF FRATES: They get less hours. If they do get that, I would like to see thirty hours.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: Now, with those remarks from the Panel, we are ready for your discussion from the floor.

CHIEF GROTE, Chester, Conn.: I am very much in sympathy with the gentlemen on the thirty hours. Some volunteers are working those long hours. But, it isn't a question of man-power; let us get in there and do our duty. That is the life of a volunteer.

CHIEF SCANLON: I might say that if industry is getting forty hours, and if police officers are getting forty hours, then what is wrong with giving those same hours to the firemen? I don't know of anybody who works any harder than the firemen. I don't know of anybody, or any body of men, who take their lives in their hands more often than the firemen do. I am all for the shortest possible working week, for the firemen, with consideration for the City to carry the load.

I am also very much in favor of the replacement of man-power, and, as Chief Flynn has well said, there are ways out of it. Inch and a half lines

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MODERATOR WOOLLEY: I think that that is an important question to consider. I think it is something that especially the municipal Chiefs must consider, and we have a lot of them in this Ball Room. We have a number of other Chiefs, though, who have a very heavy responsibility, and they may have some thoughts, as Joe did.

Now, I don't want to put him on the spot too much, but Chief Marshall, have you a thought on this matter?

CHIEF MARSHALL: I had to be out a few minutes and I might be going over something that has already been said, but the situation as to shorter hours, I believe nobody can dispute the fact that shorter hours attract better men, and it is going to be a better deal all around, particularly as to morale in the Department, and if you are working long hours, and the cities around you are working shorter hours, naturally, the men won't particularly like that, and they will keep on asking and working for shorter hours, which is disturbing to your Department.

As to the fact that the shorter hours affect the efficiency of a Department, there is no question about it; it is a matter of economics, and if they don't give you the men to replace the man-power, or take up the man hours you have lost, you are going to operate inefficiently.

If you lose all of these man hours, you have got to have the man-power, and you cannot operate, with a couple of men, particularly, we cannot, in our cities.

If that is the situation, then probably the next best thing to do is to make a survey to see if you can't do away with some companies, and have more men operating on the basic unit, the company itself.

I think that you would have less headaches for the Board of Underwriters, with more men on each unit, rather than having a picture of many pieces running with a couple of men on each piece.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: Thank you very much, Chief Marshall, and especially for your emphasis on re-surveying your own situation, and attempting to try to adjust conditions, or, adjust yourself to conditions as they are. It doesn't matter what the hours are; you have got to re-adjust, today. It is a step in the matter of progress, or in the advancement of this nation, and we cannot ignore the fact that that is the way it is going, and the smart Chief is going to adjust things accordingly.

Chief Thomas, do you want to say a word on that? I should like to get several of the larger municipal Chiefs, because the man-power situation is even more serious with them.

CHIEF THOMAS: I am delighted to get into this subject, because there is so much unanimity of opinion. We are all agreed that shorter hours are desirable, and it is the trend, and it certainly must go into governmental service, too.

I agree with everything that has been said. I would take up where Chief Marshall and Chief Flynn left off, and I agree that this training program, in

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increasing the man efficiency, of the efficiency per man, is essential, and it is a part of the Fire Chiefs' responsibilities.

The additional men, of course, are also necessary, if you are going to get proper man-power, and that, in turn, increases the cost to the municipality, which is limited by the tax base, on which they are operating.

And I do believe very, very deeply, that one of the Fire Chiefs' major responsibilities is to go along with the shorter hour week, but make sure that the men are occupied during the hours in which they are on duty; otherwise, you will have a great deal of difficulty in convincing the municipal fathers that additional men are necessary.

There is one other thing that I would like to throw in, here, Roi, not to enlarge or increase this question, which can be discussed, perhaps for a week, but here it is. What is the fireman's objective in securing the shorter hour week? The average laborer and mechanic likes the shorter hour week, so that he will have more time with his family, and more time for recreation.

Unfortunately, if we are going to be realistic and face facts, a great many of the firemen want a shorter hour week, and they want it bunched up into two or three days, so that they can pick up another job.

I think that it is the responsibility of the Fire Chiefs, as I said on the Opening Day of this Conference, to provide efficient fire protection in an economical manner, and, if we are going to justify the addition of more men, we must keep them occupied, not only in training, not only in their routine work, but let us get them out and do building inspections and that sort of thing. Let us increase the fire prevention effort, for then, in my opinion, the Fire Chief will be in a sound position, and with some of the answers, when he asks the City Manager or the Mayor for a number of additional men.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: I think we all believe that if nothing came out of this meeting of all the Panels that we have had, further than this discussion right here on this one topic, it would be worth while, because many of the Chiefs, when they go back home, are going to face this problem, and they can say:

"I have been led to understand this situation as it is, and I think that I can justify having shorter work hours for my men, by using them a little more intelligently and a little better, and producing, with firemen, a better yearly statement of my business."

And your Fire Chiefs are in business; yes, every Chief here, is in business.

However, there are a few who head up the smaller departments, perhaps, and I would like to hear from a couple of them. What have you got, Brother Kimball, down at Hingham? Do you want to say a word or two on this?

CHIEF KIMBALL of Hingham: Yes; I would like to go a step further, to bring the salaries of the firemen up, so that they won't have to work on the outside.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: That is right to the point, and very good. Who is next?

CHIEF LAUGHLIN of East Providence: Well, I am in a little different position, I think, than most of the other departments. Our department is expanding, and we have shorter hours. We have had the hours reduced several

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times. And, each time, we have to have enough men to take care of the situation, and I think that in most cases, in order to get shorter hours, we had to reduce the number of men on hand. So that we have faced that problem, too. But, I have been fortunate that way, for I have secured extra men, and haven't had to reduce the man-power on the apparatus.

There is one thing that I would like to add. It is a pretty tough thing to add anything to what Henry Thomas had to say. But, I thought that in this training program, it may be in order for the National Board, or Mr. Charnock to recognize the efficiency that training provides for the men, the mechanics and all other workers are increasing their efficiency by new equipment and one thing and another, and there has certainly been a great deal of new equipment in the Fire Service during the last few years.

So that that, together with the training of how to use it, should eliminate some of the weakness in the manpower.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: Thank you very much, Chief; that is fine. We are beginning to see a trend here, and I believe it is well to point it out.

Since we have gone in for organization in the operating forces, particularly of the Fire Service, we have begun to more or less industrialize fire fighting. Fire fighting today, as we have urged many times, is very, very big business; yes, it is Big Business, with capital B's! And as such, we have got to begin to think of what we call efficiency. We have got to think of the industry and how industry uses efficiency.

We have the problem of administration on the one hand, and operation on the other, and, today, in the bigger cities, we find that the Chief is pretty well occupied with administrative policies. He has all he can do to stick to his 11th floor at Fire Headquarters, and allow his deputies to go out and do the fighting. We have seen it more and more. The Chief's time is very valuable, and it is getting to be so with the men, too.

And, fire is more critical.

I want to bring this thought out. We have to think of administration, as well. And this leads me to ask the next speaker if he will, in about a minute, try to give us a beat-the-hand-around-the-clock on this.

John Gerletti can, perhaps, give us a little viewpoint of the Pacific Coast, and how they are meeting the problem out there. John, do you want to say a word on administration, and the effect of man-power, or do you wish to duck it? I don't want to put you on the spot at all.

MR. JOHN GERLETTI: I think that this discussion as well as other discussions, has pointed up the changing jobs that the Fire Chief has had over the past twenty years or so. Today, he is not a man on the end of the hose, or a man fighting a fire; he is now a Management man, an administrative man, a man administering a budget; he is working with the budget, buying equipment at a cost which almost scares the city fathers to death. It puts the responsibility on the Chief far beyond what it was even fifteen or twenty years ago.

As a result of all of this, I think that we need, or one of the things that we need the most in the United States at the present time is a better training program, a more efficient training program for the Chief's job, teaching the Chief the kind of thing that he has to do, other than fire-fighting.

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I think that that this is the general trend we are working for, and that seems to be working more on these unique problems of what the Chief's job really comprises, such as the problem of budget building equipment, the problem of municipal administration, in relationship to the problem of Civil Defense, and working that in, the problem of communications, and where we fit into that picture of the total communications pattern of the city, and also the problem of the closer relationship of metropolitan government.

On the west coast, we are slowly but surely moving closely faster and faster, towards the metropolitan administration of the Fire Service. Los Angeles County comes the closest, at the present time, to consolidating all of the Fire Service, covering all of that territory. It won't come today or tomorrow, but slowly, though surely, it will consolidate these things, and it will meet those problems.

I might say that I think it is coming, as you see the cities growing around here. You are at the crux of the problem, here, too, which is that of salaries. Here, you have a metropolitan area, surrounded by a lot of industry. So that the Fire Chiefs who cannot afford to pay the salaries and have the kind of equipment and what-not necessary, will consolidate and that means a complete re-evaluation of the whole fire problem.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: Thank you for your contribution. John; we appreciate it very much.

I just wanted to have him emphasize, if possible, the importance of administration, and of the changing scene. Each year, as we come down here, we can appreciate this advance in terms of progress, and some of us cannot read it as progress, but we have to face the issues.

This is one answer, then, and this is a serious problem, because today's voluntary department may have a paid driver tomorrow, and the week after that or the month after that, they may have a partially paid department, with call men, and then the first thing you know, industry moves in, and you have a fully paid department.

So that you have got to make it attractive, as it has been brought out.

I think that without calling on any more, because we have other questions, I could sum it up, with emphasis on making the job more attractive, making the Fire Department more productive by the better use of the manpower you have got, with some salary and money accruing to the men who are efficient.

I believe it will come to pass in the Fire Service that the men who are going to be paid what they are worth, and not just for the hours they sign up for.

Now, perhaps I have been a bit rough on you, but if any of you have a little bright thought along these lines, let us hear from you.

CHIEF POTTER: With all due respect to my good friend, Henry Thomas, I might say that in Connecticut, at one time, our paid Departments had so much idle time on their hands that some of the men were doing police work, which I was very much against. And that proves that they had plenty of manpower. But, I am in favor of the forty hours, after all. But, let me add one thing, here. I thought, a couple of years ago, that we were going to level off things, and try to save money and get adjusted to where things were twenty

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years ago. It looks to me as if we have been crawling to this forty hours; the tax base has been increasing, so let's have the forty hours!

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: Thank you very much, Chief; that is the sort of thinking which helps out a panel like this. I think we have been going places with our discussions here this morning. I wish we could keep this particular subject going, because we could debate the many factors represented in the question.

You mentioned the situation in Connecticut, where the firemen were asked to do police work. Let me make a very serious announcement to you Chiefs. You are going to be asked, many of you, before long, to try to double in brass. You have already been asked to do that in Stamford, but thank God it was kicked out of the picture.

In Chicago, there are several worthwhile organizations that are out to sell, on economy measure, the idea that the fire and police departments should be merged; they believe that the policemen can do fire duty, and firemen can do police duty, and that since the municipality is paying them, what difference does it make what the man does.

So that you are going to be faced with that as an economy measure. When and if it happens that any Chief is faced with that problem, I will be glad to give him substantial evidence to show the foolishness of it.

I have with me two letters from cities in Indiana and Pennsylvania, where the Chiefs face just that problem. It came like a bolt out of the blue; where the administrative head of the city said:

"How about working out a schedule of the firemen doing police work, and also a schedule where certain policemen will be available for fire duty."

I leave the thought with you, and I have got to skip along, now, because we have many more questions.

Here is a question from a well-known Chief who lives within the smell of the salt water on the Cape:

How can the small-town Chief control or handle the curiosity seekers at large fires?

CHIEF FRATES: You are talking about sidewalk firemen, are you?

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: No; the curiosity seekers.

CHIEF FRATES: Well, it is pretty hard. In Bath, when the fire alarm blows, they all pile in; we have to pull two or three of them in and fine them. That is all I can say.

It seems that everybody wants to go to a fire and get in the way. We are having trouble down our way on that score.

CHIEF MESSER: We are all in the same boat. We have good cooperation, however. I feel that if the smaller communities could get rid of the audible alarm, that would be one method of controlling it. You can keep it down to a smaller group of seekers.

As to the actual handling of them after they get there, I don't know that I can give you a good description of anything, unless it would be to get their support and the support of the Chief of Police and his men who

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would keep the people back. They will still come through the back corners, and make quite an area for us to police.

CHIEF KEEFE: We did have the problem that this question refers to. This was our solution to it. Two police cars are dispatched to every fire, and in the police cars there are two signs that say, "Fire Line—Fire Zone," and the Police Department has gone along with us, and they have roped off the area, within 1,000 feet of a fire.

By the same token, the municipal government went along and made an ordinance to follow it up. So that with the ordinance, plus the cooperation of the Police Department, it has cut the nuisance down to where we are not bothered too much by curiosity seekers, now.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: I think that you will agree that we are getting some concrete suggestions. I think that we will all agree it is a problem. But, let us see if we can, like Chief Keefe, come up with how you would handle it.

CHIEF FLYNN: We have found that the larger the fire, the easier it is to handle the crowd. Our problem is with the small, neighborhood fire, and, when the police arrive there, in response to either radio calls or the knowledge of an alarm, unless they are properly trained, you can classify them as curiosity seekers, too, because they join in with the crowd, and they are like anybody else.

With the small fire, we have the problem of the children, too; the children are very troublesome, because they want to get as close as they can to the scene of the fire, and also, if possible, climb all over the apparatus, and handle or mis-handle whatever they can get their hands on.

We find that it is necessary for one or two of our men to handle that situation themselves, and take care of the apparatus, and we can't depend entirely on the police in a small neighborhood fire.

But, with the larger fires, they establish the lines, and we do get good results, in that case.

CHIEF ALLETAG: In my town, each company has fire police, and they do a pretty good job. We rope off the area in a large fire; in a smaller fire, of course, we don't bother. The only trouble is that the fire police are not uniformed, and nobody takes much stock in the fire police, although everybody seems to be very agreeable, and we ask them to go back far enough from the fire so that the men won't be hampered in putting out the fire.

We have, in my town, a limited number of policemen; therefore, we cannot depend upon the police department too much.

I want to see if there is any man here who wouldn't like to go running to a fire and watch it, himself. When I am in Providence, I hope that Chief Marshall won't run me off the sidewalk, because I will be watching the fire!

CHIEF DAGON: We have the condition in our town where we have a Fire Constable, who goes along with us in the town. We have a lot of trouble with different cars, racing to the fire. However, during the last month or two, the police have been bearing down, and we have had very good co-operation with the Police Department.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: I was going to call upon the man who wrote the question. Is he here?

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CHIEF WELLS: The curiosity seekers that I refer to are those who come down in the summer; they go to a fire and they leave their automobiles in the roads, and they plug up the roads, so that we can't get through.

A year ago the last of this month, we had a very large building that was used as a convalescent home, that caught fire. I managed to get five companies in, and then I called for outside aid. I go out from quite a distance. We have no large police force that could dispatch two cruisers; we have nothing of that type.

As to the curiosity seekers on foot, we have a beautiful way of getting rid of them; we let the hose get away from us, and they will get out of the way very quickly.

However, the curiosity seeker who parks his car in the road and blocks vehicles from coming in, he is a menace, because the fellow who comes in right after he gets there, does the same thing, and pretty soon we have a situation where even the State Police, when they were called, could not get through, and neither could our incoming equipment get through.

We had to use relay pumping, in that situation.

Here is what I would like to see put into effect; I would like to have the cooperation of the Registrar of Motor Vehicles in this way; that if we furnish the numbers of those people who are careless enough to leave their cars unlocked or lock and plug up the roads, they could be removed from driving or given a lecture for a period of time. That might help.

We have tried education, but apparently the people who come down for a summer vacation, like to go on these excursions for excitement; however, the vacationers, even though they are entitled to their pleasure, should see that we can manipulate on these roads and on the highways, and in these small towns.

We are trying to report the names, or rather the numbers of the cars found blocking the roads, by sending the numbers in to Registrar King, and he is very glad to assist us. But, I am afraid that we have got to do something else, other than taking automobile numbers. And, I am just wondering if anybody has any other suggestions as how to control this situation.

I have received from Brother Russell several clippings on the same subject, where towns have had serious fires, and additional help has been unable to get through to help in the fire work.

Now, what is the use of municipal aid, if we are going to be prevented from using the aid when it gets to us?

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: Thank you very much, Chief. I am glad, since you asked that question, that you helped to partially answer it. You have also invited some further answers. This is a subject that also calls for an extended survey, and for some recommendations that might even be stringent. In making studies of the large loss fires in this country, Chief Wells, it was interesting to go over all of them, to determine how many of them required the help of outside companies. It was found that mutual aid, if you want to call it that, was called upon in the majority of those fires, as well as in many other forest fires not included in that category.

It was also found that in many cases, the response was seriously delayed, just as you have said, because of these people who like to jump into their

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cars the minute they hear the apparatus, and either follow it or beat them to the scene of the fire.

It does call for stringent measures.

Unfortunately, it ties in with the previous question of the lack of manpower. For, in many parts of the country, the volunteer departments are organizing Fire Police, with men who are no longer quite active enough for duty as active firemen, but who are able to stand on a corner, properly dressed in uniform and properly backed by law, in the State or local municipality, and render this police service, in order to help out the regular police.

The Police Department has the same trouble with the man-power situation; they haven't the men to spare.

If you have got to call on the State Police, by the time they get down on the scene and are organized, well, now, what can one or two patrolmen do, there, to help you? So that you have to figure communications and radio and other means of trying to improve the situation, to get help early, and to get the covering that you need.

And furthermore, you have got to figure on getting backbone into your magistrates so that they will discipline these people, who are frequent violators.

You have got to figure upon conditions such as Chief Wells brought out here, of a low hazard, perhaps at one time of the year, and a high hazard in another time of the year. In short, the vacationers, will pile up at one season of the year, and in another time of the year, there will be practically no trouble. So that you cannot maintain a full scale of police and fire men, because your seasons call out a different population, the larger one being when the vacationers are at hand.

I should like to divide the response on this question, if you will permit me to do so.

First, I should like to have one or two municipal Chiefs, who have this problem primarily from the big city viewpoint, speak on this matter. Then, I want two or three others, and I may call upon the men from the forestry service, or others who cover the area, fire-fighting.

Now, let us have one or two municipal Chiefs. I don't want to keep calling on Brother Marshall. Is Chief Tom Collins here from New Haven? And then we will have a lesser drink right after Tom Collins! (Laughter)

CHIEF COLLINS of New Haven: We don't have too much of a problem, because we have a fairly large police force, and it is much easier, of course, to control traffic than it is on the country roads. But, I think that the problem should be accepted as a State Motor Vehicle problem, and I believe that organizations such as this one should evolve a resolution and see if the different states could have a law in their motor vehicle laws, prohibiting the people from doing this, with a severe penalty attached to it.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: And now, John Collins from Cambridge, let us have your thoughts on this matter.

CHIEF COLLINS of Cambridge: The only problem that we have is the lack of police force; there isn't much that we can do about it. We see the cars parked in restricted areas, and we call on the police and have them towed out of there. We can't do any better than that.

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The police handle the situation fairly good, until the college is opened, and streets are all parked up again, then.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: Incidentally, the Chief is doing a grand job, with his auxiliary firemen, too!

Now, I would like to get some of these Chiefs from up Maine and up in the hinderlands, say a few words on this important subject. Is Chief Kol-tonski, Rutland, Vt., here? Is anybody here from South Portland, Maine? Chief, you have had the problem in the suburbs of Portland. What about it?

CHIEF JOSE: We haven't been disturbed with much of it. We did have a case in a neighboring city, where they covered about fourteen miles in about fourteen minutes, and then we covered the last two thousand feet in about a half an hour. The fire had been going for quite a while, and the area was covered with cars.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: In these areas where you may have oil fires, as happens sometimes in South Portland in that area, I am quite certain that you will agree that when a column of smoke goes up five miles into the air, or at night, you are really in trouble, then, and we may say that we get some cooperation and help, but it is pretty serious. Walter, have you a few words for us?

CHIEF MESSER of Keene, N. H.: I think you would like to hear from Ralph Seavey on this matter.

CHIEF SEAVEY: I thought that Walter might have said something in regard to Ray, where the Motor Vehicle Department will cooperate one hundred per cent in the State of New Hampshire, if we will take any number of any car interfering in the operation of our department, and send that number in to the Motor Vehicle Department, he will investigate with them, and, if warranted, suspend the license for thirty or sixty days.

We have found that by taking them to Court, it seems that everybody but the Fire Chief has all kinds of money, and they don't care whether they have to pay fines of \$20.00 or \$25.00 or not. But, if they have to lose their license for thirty or sixty days, we won't see them again.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: Thank you very much, Chief. I wish we had you here yesterday.

CHIEF WELLS; I would like to ask if this Association could take action, with respect to representation in those States where there is a tendency to not give too much attention to fire parking, on the highways.

I think that if it came, officially from the Association, that more co-operation with respect to reporting of numbers and the action of our Brother Chief on the left, here, Chief Seavey, if we could take the license away for a short time, that would be a very great help, I know.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: Just as Ray got up to speak, two of our Panel members handed me a memorandum saying:

"Would this not be a good time and a good subject for a resolution by this organization?"

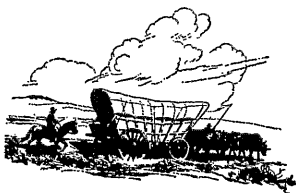
Again, I am not in a position to offer recommendations for a resolution at all. But, it is evident that a resolution or some movement on the part of

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this organization, urging a closer degree of cooperation between the motor vehicle bureau or any other such bureau as your organization so designates, would perhaps be in order. And, without putting our good President on the spot, Henry, have you something to contribute at this point.

CHIEF THOMAS: The question of a resolution having come up, I think that I should tell you and the group that the Eastern Association of Fire Chiefs, meeting at Elmira, New York, just about three weeks ago, did pass a resolution on this subject. Their resolution was a request to the International Association to set up a committee or a sub-committee to make a survey and come up with some recommendations for a remedy.

Of course, as you have said, Roi, we are all thoroughly familiar with the problem, and we might even go a little bit further if you had the time, to remind our members of the terrific time they had down around Elizabeth, and the air crashes down there. That sure was a traffic problem.

The International will entertain such a resolution as has already been presented. My own personal opinion is this. The State of Connecticut has the same type of cooperation between the Fire Department and the Motor Vehicle Department as has already been mentioned by Chief Seavey, if the Fire Department gets the number of the offending vehicle, whether it is obstructing its passage or obstructing its operation, well, they will bring the driver in, if he is reported to the Registry of Motor Vehicles.

Now, I do believe, and it is my personal opinion, that it is a State problem, because the Motor Vehicle Laws are set up on the State government approach, and not on the Federal level.

I would favor such a resolution, and suggest that if you so desire, you could make two resolutions; one of them to be sent to all of the States in New England, to the Motor Vehicle Commissioners, for their cooperation that you so much desire, and the second resolution to be forwarded to the International, Roi, that will give added emphasis in calling for some sort of a discussion, and perhaps the setting up of a Committee at the national level.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: I think that that may answer this question, because it would immediately tie in all of the other organizations in the Fire Service, throughout the country, through the International, and we could work with the national and International Traffic forces of the country.

Therefore, Mr. President, merely as the Chairman of the Panel, it would be my suggestion that you entertain two resolutions to be drawn up; one to cover the individual States in a recommendation from this organization.

Pardon me, but I see that John Gerletti has some ideas on the subject, so I will strike out my remarks.

MR. JOHN GERLETTI: With the coming of television and with the expanding of the T-V units throughout the United States, and I might say that we have 360 stations now and we expect to have 500, fire becomes a positive public show for television; with the utilization of the T-V and the traveling television wagons, you are jamming the scene an untold number of times.

I saw three fires in California, in which the last 2,000 feet, it took two hours to clear the path.

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So that, somewhere in your resolution, if you could possibly include a recommendation to the Communications Commission and to the State and Federal Communications Commissions, to get at the problem.

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: I have your viewpoint, and you have brought in a communications question. The whole thing has been under advisement on communications, in the matter of promiscuously televising fires, etc.

I do think that a resolution on a broad scale should include that, but there is also the need of directed efforts of the networks and so on, in this communications business, as well as in television.

I believe that this idea that we are discussing now is primarily to meet a situation which exists on the highways, and to set up some measures that will enable us to correct it immediately, as well as to perhaps prevent it, because what we need is some stringent method of dealing with infringement, as it exists, and we also, in communications, perhaps must come up with a situation that sets up the infringement. I hope that that is clear.

I would again suggest that our President entertain two resolutions, as suggested by Chief Thomas; one to go to the individual States of the New England Association of Fire Chiefs, urging a greater degree of cooperation between the State Motor Vehicle Bureau or the appropriate authority, and the Fire Services of that State; and, secondly, that a resolution go to the International Association of Fire Chiefs, urging their handling of a proper survey and recommendations regarding the correcting of this evil.

We will handle communications at another time.

That is open for a discussion, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT FORTIER: You have heard these suggestions, Gentlemen. What is your pleasure?

CHIEF POTTER: I move the adoption of the two resolutions, as outlined by Roi Woolley.

This motion was duly seconded by several of the members present.

SECRETARY O'HEARN: Mr. President, I have been listening with much interest, and you have gotten us into a very long and complicated situation. There is more than one thing in connection with that.

I want to say this: If you are going to do it, let's do it thoroughly. We have a Committee on Resolutions, and this suggested resolution, coming from President Thomas, is so long and so lengthy that I don't believe our Committee on Resolutions, even though they are all good and it consists of only three men, would ever be able to report tomorrow morning.

I think, therefore, that I would like to make the suggestion that the Resolutions Committee be increased for this purpose, with a representative from each New England State. Three are represented on the Committee, now, and I would further suggest that when the resolution by that Committee is ready, that it be reported to our Board of Directors, which includes every officer of the organization. Then, we, later, will carry out the purpose of this motion, to the best of our ability.

We must look into the matter of who is going to be reported and who is going to be notified of the resolution, in addition to sending a copy to the

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International Association or the Eastern Division. Furthermore, we will find that in New England, there will be many Police Departments and others who must be notified.

That is my suggestion. As I said in the beginning, we want it right; so, give us the time, and don't look for a report on it tomorrow morning. But, in the very near future, you will have it, when your Committee can get to work and do a good job on it.

PRESIDENT FORTIER: Would you want to put that into your motion, to increase the Resolutions Committee to six members?

CHIEF POTTER: Yes; I would be glad to accept the suggestion, as outlined by the Secretary.

CHIEF THOMAS: I would also like to second this amended resolution of Chief Potter's, and add a word, in fairness to our very-much-alert Secretary, John O'Hearn, because this practice which he has suggested has been followed by the New England Association in the past, very adequately, and, as you all may remember, following the referral to the Board of Directors, they, in turn, have acted on matters very soundly. For that reason, I would like to second Chief Potter's amendment to this resolution, that this matter be referred to the enlarged Resolutions Committee, and that they, in turn, refer it to the Board of Directors.

PRESIDENT FORTIER: Gentlemen, you have heard the amended motion. Is there any further discussion on the motion?

If not, all those who are in favor of the motion as amended, will please signify by saying "aye." Those opposed?

There was a chorus of "ayes" and the motion was carried.

(Moderate Woolley then assumed the Chair.)

MODERATOR WOOLLEY: Thank you very much. Again, I can't see any other way of getting good, intelligent action on important matters than the action that you have seen taken right here.

Now, it is just five minutes of twelve. Time has sneaked up on us. I have a half a dozen very important questions, and I just don't see how we can hope to cover them.

Therefore, I must ask the opinion of the Chairman of the Committee on Program, to decide what we shall do with the balance of these questions; that is, whether to hold them over and handle them next year, or say "Thank you" to every one who sent them in, and terminate this meeting.

Joe Scanlon, what are your wishes in this matter?

While he is pondering it over, I do want to say "Thanks" to this grand Panel up here, and to you people out there in the audience who are gluttons for punishment, and who have also contributed so well to these Panel Discussions.

I wish that we could have undivided time for these Panels. Joe has given me the high-sign to adjourn the session. So that we will consider this meeting adjourned, and Thanks, Joe Scanlon, to you. (Applause.)

PRESIDENT FORTIER: If there is no objection I will consider this meeting adjourned.

(Whereupon, the Wednesday Morning Session was adjourned at 12:00 o'clock noon, on June 25, 1954.)

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TOASTMASTER FORTIER: Ladies and Gentlemen, I am going to ask the officers at the head table to rise, as I introduce them.

Chief George Graham of Bristol, Connecticut.

Chief John Keefe of Bellows Falls, Vermont.

Reverend John P. Fitzsimmons, one of our Chaplains.

Chief Thomas Slaman of Wellesley, State Director from Massachusetts.

Chief Green, State Director from the State of New Hampshire.

Chief Crompton of Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

Chief Francis Dagon, State Director from the State of Connecticut.

Chief Alfred Koltonski, State Director from the State of Vermont.

Chief William Dooling of Watertown, our very able Sergeant-at-Arms.

Chief John W. O'Hearn, our Secretary-Treasurer.

Reverend Father Michael F. Collins, who promised that we would not have rain this afternoon; but, we did! What have you to say for yourself, Father Collins?

REVEREND MICHAEL COLLINS: The Annual Chaplain's report on the behavior at the convention will let you know that you had two Chaplains this week who were not AWOL! This is the best convention ever. Nobody had tight shoes; nobody had to get bawled out; there was no singing after hours, and everybody fell asleep at eleven o'clock.

The only thing about this is that I had a thought along these lines. Every morning, your Secretary-Treasurer and I had an early breakfast. He never bothered much to ask until this year, when he said to me:

"How were things last night?"

I said they were fine.

"Was there any noise?"

"No, there was no noise."

"Was there any hollering?"

"No, there was no hollering, at least, not that I heard."

And so every morning this week, he went through the same thing, the same lines of questions.

Then, this morning, about two o'clock, when I was lying in bed and trying to get some sleep with the noise that was going on here, the awful thought came to me that he was asking too many questions. And as you know, he's the Treasurer. So I thought that maybe he might decide that the Chiefs were too good around here, and they wouldn't need Chaplains any more.

And so, in order to protect my job after this is over tonight, let's all go out and raise ructions! (Laughter and Applause.)

PRESIDENT FORTIER: Thank you, Father Collins.

Next in our line at the head table, we have Past President, Chief Anthony Molloy of Nashua, New Hampshire.

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Chief Cote, one of our old stand-by men, and Director from the State of Rhode Island.

Chief Oliver Sanborn, another old stand-by, of Portland, Maine.

Chief Andrew Palmer, our Press Representative.

And now, will the wives and friends of the officers just introduced at this head table please rise. (Applause.)

And we have, of course, our good friends of this Association, Mr. and Mrs. Smith, and young Jimmie Smith. (Applause.)

We are also honored with the presence of Mrs. Hugh Gregg, wife of the Governor of the State of New Hampshire! (Applause.)

And we have another table down here, consisting of the Past-Presidents of this Association, and their lovely ladies. (Applause.)

It is, indeed, a pleasure and an honor to have with us here this evening the President of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, who has been a very good worker for this Association for many years. We are very proud to have him with us, and it gives me a great deal of pleasure to present to you now, Chief Henry Thomas, President of the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

CHIEF HENRY THOMAS, President of the International Association of Fire Chiefs. President Fortier, Father Collins, Reverend Mr. Fitzsimmons, Your Excellency, the Governor of New Hampshire, Hugh Gregg, and Honored Guests, Past Presidents, and members of the New England Association of Fire Chiefs, and Friends.

It is my privilege to be here with you tonight, and it is a privilege for which I am very grateful that the Lord has permitted me to be able to attend this 32nd Annual Conference of the New England Association of Fire Chiefs.

And I am also privileged to bring to you the greetings of your International Association of Fire Chiefs.

This has been, as Father Collins has already said, another delightful Conference. It also has been instructive and the Chiefs and their assistants have very nearly finished the technical sessions, and I am very, very certain that they have acquired many ideas in their exchanges, both in the program and their discussions between each other in the lobbies of the hotel, and I am sure that each and every one of us will return to our respective communities a little better fitted to carry out our responsibilities in providing for our protection for our respective communities.

New England has always had a most delightful Conference ever since that first one in 1923, in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Throughout the country, I have been asked many, many times about the New England Conference, and particularly Mr. and Mrs. Smith and young Jimmie at the Wentworth, here, for your fame has spread far and wide. The Fire Chiefs of the nation like you as well as the New England group does. (Applause.)

I have, also, the happy assignment this evening, and I am very proud and quite humble in accepting this assignment, for the New England has always had an outstanding convention, and this group has always gained from the various Conferences with the good fellowship and camaraderie found in the various conventions held in New England, and especially for the last nine years

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at the beautiful spot of The Wentworth, I believe has been due in no small part to the efforts of your officers

This Conference has been an excellent one, because of the ability and hard work of your President, the Committees and all who have assisted and aided.

But, as we look back through the years, we have with us tonight two Chiefs whose work for this Association has been outstanding, and I believe that every member and every officer and every President of this Association would agree with me, and I certainly do not have the words to properly express our love and our admiration for these two gentlemen.

I don't believe they know that I am here to say anything relative to them or to their work for this Association. The two men I speak of are retired Fire Chiefs. One of them is Chief Cote, of Woonsocket, Rhode Island. (Applause.) He is a charter member and a founder of this organization. He is a man who has always worked hard; he is the fellow, with his small Committee, who arose to the emergency this afternoon in the rain and brought our visitors up here into the hall, so as to make it convenient and pleasant and comfortable for us. (Applause.)

The other Chief of whom I speak has worked equally hard for this Association; he is a Past President of the Association, and he is a fellow upon whose shoulders has rested the matter of hotel reservations and all of those complicated little things, the little details that go to make a convention like this a success. And, of course, I refer to retired Chief Oliver Sanborn of Portland Maine. (Applause.)

Chief Sanborn joined the Portland Fire Department in April, 1912. He was appointed Chief in February, 1924, and his record in the city of Portland is outstanding and has been outstanding.

Chief Cote joined the Woonsocket Fire Department in January, 1901; he was appointed Chief in 1908, I believe it was, although it may have been before then, because it was a little bit before my time that Chief Cote attended the first International Convention. Last year, at Toronto, where we had about 2,000 registered, the entire group stood up and acclaimed Chief Cote, for his long service to the Fire Service of this country. I know of no better way to express my feelings for these two men than in the words of the poem that was written in the Chicago Tribune some time ago: We talk about their work, about their efficiency as firemen, but first of all, I think of them as friends. This little article went something like this:

"What is a friend? My friend is he who lives with me and who weeps with me, who praises and rebukes me, who eats poultry and turkey or bread and salt with me, who comes to me at the wedding feast, and stands beside me at the coffin, who listens to my hopes, my fears, my aims, my despairs, and who rejoices in my successes, and who does not despise me in my misfortunes."

That has been their life's work, and I think you will agree with me that that, perhaps, exemplifies the type of man Gus Cote and Ollie Sanborn represent. (Applause.)

Then, as we look back, or as we all come to that point where we look back on our careers, and what we may have accomplished in this world, I also

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think of another poem by Mrs. A. J. Standley, who, I believe, best expresses success or "achievement."

What is achievement?

"He has achieved success who has lived well, laughed often and loved much, who has gained the respect of intelligent men and the love of little children, who has filled his niche, and accomplished his task, whether by an improved poppy, a perfect poem or a rescued soul, and who has left this world better than he found it, whose life has been an inspiration and whose memory will be a benediction."

Gus Cote and Ollie Sanborn, will you please come up here just for a moment, so that I may best express my feelings, and, I am sure, the love with which these people here look upon you two, who have done so much for us.

God love you, always! (Applause.)

PRESIDENT FORTIER: Thank you, Chief Thomas, for the wonderful expression conveyed to our two Chiefs who have just retired.

Now, I know that all parents here this evening would feel as I do right now, for I am going to have the privilege of introducing to you Henri, Junior, and also his lovely wife! (Applause.) And Rene Fortier! (Applause.)

It is an honor and a privilege for me, at this time, to introduce to you a person who has appeared before us many times before, and it is a real honor for me to present to you the youngest Governor in the United States, His Excellency, Hugh Gregg of New Hampshire! (Applause.)

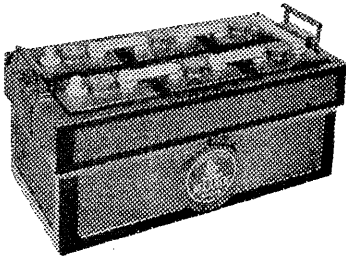
HIS EXCELLENCY HUGH GREGG of New Hampshire: Thank you, Chief Fortier. Distinguished guests, and good friends of this wonderful Association. Of course, it is very rude to do this, Chief, but I must correct your statement about being the youngest Governor. But, you spoke like a good Republican! (Laughter.)

Actually, there is one younger Governor in the United States, but inasmuch as he is a Democrat, we don't consider him a Governor! (Laughter.)

You know, coming down here this evening, I was, of course, very pleased to be asked once again, to bring the greetings of the greatest State to this gathering, and, in the course of thinking about it, I wondered how lucky we are that you were coming back to New Hampshire for the ninth annual convention here at this beautiful hotel, because last year, when our New Hampshire Chief retired as your President, and I heard that you had elected a man from Rhode Island, a State which has certainly become an island, in Republican politics in New England, I wasn't sure that you could ever come back to New Hampshire again.

However, I learned tonight, much to my pleasure, that your President particularly enjoys coming up here and seeing how real New Englanders live in a real Republican State, because he is one of the few still left in Rhode Island, and we are glad to see you here this evening!

You know, this is a particularly pleasant time of the year to welcome you people to New Hampshire, because during this time of the year, we have in New Hampshire many people who come to us in joint Convention, such as you do, because it is a pleasant time of the year, and you get in here, really before the hot weather begins, with the exception of yesterday, we had a little



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extra dividend, yesterday; but, it is nice to have you here at this time, when people are so friendly and hospitable and seem to enjoy themselves.

And as a matter of fact, just this last Saturday, I had the pleasure of attending the Legion convention at Manchester, and I think how much more fortunate you are than they were. They don't have any Wentworth for those people.

I happened to be going through Friday night, and I met one of my friends, walking, or tipling along the street; he had been there for a couple of days already, at that point. I said to him:

"Joe, where are you staying in Manchester?" And I was curious, about that.

He said to me: "We're only going to be here three days; we're not staying any place!" (Laughter.)

But, I really sympathize with Father Collins, because I know that he has problems with some of you men at these meetings. It is sort of like asking a bride if her husband snores in his sleep, and the answer was:

"How do I know? We've only been married four days!" (Laughter and Applause.)

Now, we have tried to provide for you, here in New Hampshire, in the short time that you have been with us this time, a weather and a climate that is as varied as is our scenery, our lakes and our mountains, and we have tried to change it for you, and I am sure you felt that we did a good job yesterday, on the Clam Bake.

We are a great recreation State, and it is just a part of the program that we do those things. Yesterday, it got a little hot, and I heard an interesting story yesterday afternoon about the heat. And do you know that yesterday the heat reached 95 degrees, which is the hottest day on record for June 22nd, in the history of our State; the previous record had been established in 1921, when it went up to 94. Perhaps we overdid it, yesterday.

I have a friend at the beach, who has some wonderful children, and they completed their school year. Well, these parents were having difficulty with youngsters in the second and third grades, and their younger children, a boy and a girl, had difficulty with the children in school. And these children had a way of using the wrong words, sometimes.

One hot evening, my friend had a distinguished guest, and he wanted to make a good impression, so he told the children:

"If you kids can use good language all during the meal this evening, I'm going to give you 50-cents."

Well, now that was a pretty good inducement. The meal started off in good shape, and finally they got down to the dessert. The mother had thoughtfully provided a chilled grapefruit, because of the oppressing heat. So they started in with grapefruit. The little boy stuck his spoon in the grapefruit, and unfortunately the juice went up into his eye. He said: "Damn." A very natural reaction. His little sister across the table shouted out:

"You sure shot your 50-cents to hell!" (Laughter.)

Now, there are a great many things that I could tell you about New Hampshire, but you have been here before, and you wouldn't come up here nine times if you didn't believe in our State.

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And you know, we have these fine changes in the weather. We have rainy weather for those fishermen in the group. We had a little flash up in the mountains this morning. And, you know, those things can be difficult. But, our New Hampshire people are built of firm stuff, and those changes in the environment are what make us great in New Hampshire.

A boy, yesterday, went up to visit one of our friends, and, as he came into the home yesterday afternoon, he came to this beautiful, well-kept homestead, and as he walked across the lawn, he was well-impressed; every bit of grass had been put in place, and he thought highly of it. He went to bed that night, and when he woke up the next morning, as he looked out the window, he noticed, much to his chagrin and horror, that the waters had risen and were actually overflowing, and the waters were coming in torrents, and, streaming across the front of what had been the beautiful lawn, and it was being carried along with the debris. And, there were chicken coops, and maybe a few Democrats that didn't get washed out in the last election, coasting down in front of the house. Then, he noticed, quite curiously, a hat that seemed to come sailing down across the front of the building, across the front steps and down to the lower fence line, and it stuck out of the water a little bit. The hat reached the fence line, it hesitated, and then it turned and seemed to be going northerly again, right against the current, and directly back across the front steps, and back to the northerly fence line.

He thought that it was odd, and he began to look twice, when suddenly the hat seemed to be caught in the current, and sailed by the house again. Once again it reached the lower fence line, paused and turned, and up again it started.

Well, that was too much for this boy; he turned to his host and said: "Do you see what I see? Am I seeing properly?"

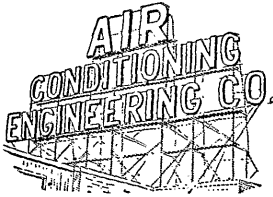
Whereupon, his host said:

"Certainly, you are seeing properly. Don't think anything about it. That's just old grandpa. Grandpa said last night that he was going to go out and mow the lawn, come hell or high water!" (Laughter.)

Now, New Hampshire is, indeed, perhaps honored tonight more than for any other reason because it has been through the courtesy of this great Association that you have made it possible for us to have visit our State one of our most distinguished legal minds of this great nation of ours, and probably if it hadn't been for your inviting him here tonight, he never would have left Rhode Island, and they would never, ordinarily, dare to let him leave there, because they would feel that if he came to New Hampshire, he might become a Republican and they wouldn't take the risk.

At this time, it is my pleasure to ask Father Collins to escort our distinguished guest to the platform, because I want to say a word to him up here, and you can hear, perhaps a little better, what I am about to say to our distinguished guest, Honorable William E. Powers, Attorney General of the State of Rhode Island.

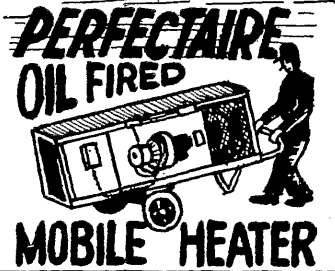
Mr. Powers has had a long and a very enviable history. He started in 1939, at which time he ran for the Legislature in that State, and he served for four terms in that position as a member representing the people of his district in the State Legislature.



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Following that, in January of 1948, he was elected as Attorney General of the State of Rhode Island, and he has served, now, for three terms in that position. In Rhode Island, the Attorney General is elected, so it is a double honor to be elected and have the ability and the capacity to fill that position.

In addition to that, he has served on the Executive Committee of the National Association of Attorneys-General, and his opinion and his word carry great weight, throughout the nation, because he is an outstanding citizen.

And so, at this time, Bill, and he is "Bill" to me because after all we have to be friendly with these people, even though they are misled at the ballot box, it is my pleasure to make you a citizen in the very distinguished and exclusive New Hampshire Whoopers. I hope this will not offend your sense of fair play, for you will find other great men who are members, such as our great Republican President, General Eisenhower, that great Republican General, Douglas MacArthur, that great Republican comedian, Arthur Godfrey and many others.

I have a little citation which I am going to read to you that outlines pretty well and pretty completely what this honor means. Let me read the scroll to you, Bill:

"Honorary Whooper of the Great State of New Hampshire. To all those who shall see these presents: Greetings."

(Governor Gregg then read the citation to Attorney-General William E. Powers of Rhode Island.)

Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to introduce to you good people the Attorney-General of Rhode Island, Judge William E. Powers! (Applause.)

ATTORNEY GENERAL WILLIAM E. POWERS: Thank you, Governor. I am very grateful to you for your thoughtfulness and I want to assure you that any time you are in Rhode Island, you may drive as fast as you please, but not for long! (Laughter.)

Mr. Toastmaster, my very distinguished fellow Rhode Islanders, President of this Association, Henri E. Fortier, his gracious and lovely lady and their son Henri, Junior and his wife, the Reverend members of the Clergy, Father Collins and Reverend Mr. Fitzsimmons, Your Excellency, Governor Gregg and your charming and lovely lady, the First Lady of New Hampshire, Mrs. Gregg, Chief Henry Thomas, President of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and your very lovely lady, my very distinguished friend and the best newspaper man I know, Press Representative of this Association and affiliated with the Woonsocket CALL, which, unfortunately, does not always agree with me, Andy Palmer, and his lovely lady, Mrs. Palmer, the distinguished Fire Chiefs here at the head table and their lovely ladies, all of the Fire Chiefs who are members of this Association and their guests, Ladies and Gentlemen. And if there is somebody else present, ask them to leave at once! (Laughter.)

I would like to point out that two people named Gregg have gained the nation's respect and appreciation. The first was a gentleman whom I have never met, but to whom I am considerably indebted. He invented a system for shorthand. The second gentleman I know quite well, and I respect and admire him and I have a great deal of affection for him, even though he was misguided in his youth, and of course I am referring to the Governor of this distinguished State.

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I might mention that my secretary has adopted the Gregg system for her proficiency and skilfulness, and I am eternally grateful to the Mr. Gregg who invented that system.

As I do not see, she is very thoughtful, and whenever I get a letter that is marked "Personal and Confidential" she covers her ears so that she won't hear what she is reading! (Laughter.)

Perhaps I should explain that title of "Judge" which His Excellency, the Governor, was so kind to include in his presentation of me to this distinguished gathering. It goes back to the days when I was in college and was a candidate for the football team. I got out there every day and practiced, and every Saturday I sat on the bench, but we got through my freshman year nicely, without my services.

Then, in my sophomore year, I was there every Saturday, and practiced all week, but we had a fairly large squad, and so they got through a ten-game schedule without needing me at all. And the same was true in my junior year. But, in my senior year, the squad had been sharply reduced, and there were very few of us substitutes sitting on the bench. But, they got through the first nine games of the ten-game schedule without any chance of my serving.

We got into the last game of the last year of my term in college, and at the end of the half, three of the five substitutes had been used; that left another fellow and myself, and in the third quarter, there was another injury and the coach called upon the other substitute to go in. That left me all alone. Now, there is nothing malicious about me; I wasn't hoping or wishing that anything would happen to any of the boys. I was available. Then, as you might expect, in the fourth quarter, there was another injury, and there I was. The coach came right up to me and said:

"Powers."

"Yes, coach."

"Powers, get up; I'm sending in the bench!" (Laughter.)

And that is where I got the title of Judge; from all of those years of faithful service on the bench!

More seriously, I might explain to you that I did serve as a Probate Judge for thirteen years, and that is why they actually call me "Judge."

And you, know, my experiences as a Probate Judge were very interesting. Of course, a Probate Judge is an individual who cannot be of much use to you while you are alive, but he will take very good care of your property, after you are dead! (Laughter.)

Among the many duties of the Probate Judge is the examination of the accounts of administrators, executors and guardians, etc., and I can remember a woman who came in to see me; she was the executrix of her husband's will. He had died, leaving a large estate. He left everything to her, with only one condition, and that was that she have a tombstone erected above his grave, with the simple inscription of his name, the date of his birth, the date of his death and "Prepare to follow me."

She came in with her account as executrix, and it was \$63.50 for this stone cutting business. Now, I was born a poor boy, and I am in favor of the laboring man, but, it seemed to me that \$63.50 for those few words might be considered chiseling, and I asked her, how come, and what was the \$63.50 for?

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She said: "Oh, well, I had him add some. Right underneath the 'Prepare to follow me,' I had him add: 'To follow you, I am not content, until I know just where you went.'"

I brought this Probate Judgeship in because I think that it is a little apropos in speaking to this distinguished organization. I want to make the point that a life estate is an estate of inheritance. It is ours to enjoy during our lifetime, to add to it, if possible, but to preserve it at all costs, and pass on to our posterity.

This way of life which we enjoy is a state of inheritance, ours to enjoy during our lifetime, to add to it, to the extent that we have the gifts Almighty God gave us, but to preserve it at all costs.

And, in this state of inheritance, this way of life, that we enjoy, we have the dual obligation, first, to make our contribution as individuals, and secondly, to make a contribution, acting collectively, in concert, with all others.

It is by organization that we are able to make our contribution, collectively, and I do not know of any organization in which such a contribution can be made and is made more worthy of recognition than the New England Association of Fire Chiefs, and I think, right there, that I should take a few seconds of your time to pay tribute at this moment to three charter members of this Association: John W. O'Hearn, my distinguished friend from Rhode Island, A. J. Cote, and Justin McCarthy of Boston. These men have been with this Association since its inception, and the work that is done by them in making a contribution to our way of life is beyond the calculation of any human mind.

We, who are here assembled, and many, many thousands not able to be here, pay tribute to you gentlemen tonight! (Applause.)

I think I should say, further that although there has been an hour and a half allotted to me, I shall not use the last hour. My wife, who is with me here tonight, informs me that the program notes say that immediately following the speaking, there will be dancing. And do you know, but I do not trust these newspapers, not even the Woonsocket CALL and Andy Palmer, because they would not be above printing,

"Attorney General Powers interferes with dancing."

I thought I would take, as my theme, the word "Firemen." The "F" stands for friendliness. The "I" for imagination. "R" for recklessness. "E" for efficiency. "M" for methodical. "E" for equipment, and "N" for non-partisan.

Although I took the word "friendliness" it could stand for fearlessness or fortitude or any number of characteristics which symbolize the men who are in the front line of defense, the firemen of our country.

I took "friendliness" because I think it is a characteristic of the firemen that is too often overlooked, their general willingness to help beyond the required duties of their profession, such as the holding of parties on Halloween for the children of the community, the repairing of second-hand toys, the purchase of new toys, and in general all of the wonderful things they do that are in no way any part of the responsibility of a Fireman, in order to make the community in which they reside a better place in which to live.

Friendliness, I think, is an outstanding characteristic of the men who serve in the fire-fighting forces of the nation.

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Now, of course, friendliness is something that can also get you into trouble. I remember a visiting fireman who came to Providence and stayed in the hotel, and he was all alone; he took out the Gideon Bible that was in the hotel room, and he opened it up, and inside the cover on a typewritten sheet of paper, it said:

"If you are worried, read Romans: 3 through 11. And if you are anxious, read 9 through 17. If you are lonesome, read Psalms 11 through 34."

Well, he was lonesome, so he read Psalms 11 through 34. At the end of 34, some one had written in:

"If you're still lonesome, call Gaspee 1-2348." (Laughter.)

Now, for "Imagination" there will always be times that will arise calling upon your imagination. And that, I think, is another characteristic of these men who fight fires. There is no formula that has ever been devised for you men to follow to the letter, so that it does require imagination, skill, skill and training to see to it that the results achieved produce a sense of happiness for the people they are serving.

Now, imagination, too, while it is a wonderful thing, can also get you into trouble. As Attorney-General of Rhode Island, I deal with the Police Chiefs of the cities and towns, and the State Police, the Superintendent of which is here, Colonel John Sheehan, and his lovely lady; but, I am remembering the incident where a careless driver jammed into a car in front of him who crowded it off the highway and created a serious accident for himself and the car which he struck. He had imagination; he got out of his car, rushed over to the car he had struck, opened the door and said:

"How do you feel, driver?"

"Well, all right, I guess; I don't think anything is wrong."

"No; it looks all right. But, here, I have a flask of brandy; take a good, swig of this because it will make you feel better."

So he took a good swig from the flask of brandy, and he said: "Gee, that does make me feel good."

"Here, take another good one; it will make you feel even better."

So he took another one, and he said to the fellow that struck him: "How about you? Have some; it's great."

"Not until the police arrive!" (Laughter.)

Recklessness is understood to be something that is not desirable, as a characteristic, but, properly defined, it is a giving of one's self, without thought of person, loss or injury, after having carefully weighed all of the facts involved.

If that is true and if we can accept this as a definition, then all of the firemen in this nation may be termed as reckless, because certainly they give of their time, always understanding that the next time the bell rings, it might mean permanent injury or even death for them, and they do it without a second's hesitation.

There is the story of the fellow who belonged to the Elks; he was reckless, too. The Elks had a boxing competition and one of his friends said:

"Look, you must be almost a couple of hundred pounds; you're strong, and you ought to be a good boxer. Why don't you get into it?"

Recklessly, he did. He told his wife about it, and she wasn't very happy about it. But he said:

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So he went to the boxing match that night, and when it was over, his friends brought him home, with four or five teeth missing, both eyes closed and black, and he was hardly able to walk. His wife said;

"I knew it; I knew it. Look at what they did to you. It's awful."

And he said: "Oh, no; you don't half understand it. I won. I have to meet the next guy tomorrow night!" (Laughter.)

Then, there is "Efficiency." Suppose these men who serve in the Fire Fighting Forces of our communities were to just sit there and wait for the bell to ring, and when it rang, take off and without any previous thought as to what they were doing, where would you and I be?

But, no. They spend their time making sure that before the bell rings, all of the equipment which they will need is available and in its proper place, and awaiting its proper use. And, it is because of this efficiency that when they arrive at the scene of the action, the results are so satisfactory.

Efficiency, too, covers all fields of endeavor. Every time you tell a story, you know, you are apt to step on somebody's toes, and I want to tell you a story about efficiency that doesn't step on anybody's toes but mine, and I don't object.

It seems that there was a clothing store proprietor who had thousands of suits on his racks. And one of those suits was a monstrosity; it was a sort of a purple background, with a yellow check and a green stripe; and, needless to say, it didn't move from the racks. It was there for years.

One day, when he came down from lunch, it was gone.

So he asked his efficient salesman what had happened to that suit, and did he put it in the storehouse.

The efficient salesman said:

No; I sold it."

"You sold it?"

"Yep."

"For how much?"

"For the full tab."

"Do you mean that somebody walked in here and paid the full price for that thing?"

"That's right."

"And didn't make any argument about it?"

"Not a bit. He liked the feeling of the material; it fit him well, and he took it and paid for it, and went out very happy. He didn't object at all."

"He didn't object to it at all?"

"No; but I thought his see-eye dog would bite me!" (Laughter.)

M for "Methodical." It almost ties up with "Efficiency." It is the method whereby you operate that makes the difference. Just stop and think of all the wonderful results that have been achieved, by way of fire prevention, from the training the firemen receive. It is by methodical procedures that all success is achieved.

I think that I would like to tell you, in connection with that, of the housewife who was very methodical about running the kitchen and every department of the home. She read somewhere that the greatest and cheapest source of iron and protein for the diet were prunes, so she went out and bought a bushel

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of them, and she promptly proceeded to serve prunes to her husband and her nine-year-old son, for breakfast, luncheon and dinner.

One day, the kid got sick of them, and he said:

"I don't want them."

"You eat the prunes."

"No; I won't."

So she finally said to her husband:

"William, speak to your son."

And the father said:

"You eat your prunes, or God will get mad with you."

Said the boy: "I don't care; I'm not going to eat them."

So just then, the father said: "All right, then; you go to your room, and take the prunes with you, and don't you come out until you eat them."

About the time the kid went into his room, a thunder and lightning storm came on the scene suddenly; the wind blew about 80-miles an hour, the rain fell with a great force; the thunder was crashing and the lightning was sharp. The mother became a little disturbed about the nine-year-old son being all alone in his room, and the father was disturbed, too.

Just as they were sitting there and thinking about how upset the child must be, he came walking out, with the empty dish, and his father said:

"Well, son, so you ate the prunes."

"Yes."

"Well, that's good; that's what you should do. It pleases your mother and me, and pleases God, too."

"Yah, I know; it seems to me He made a hell of a fuss over a few prunes."
(Applause.)

Now, we come to the word "Equipment." It would be ridiculous and to the extreme for me to stand here and talk about the modern equipment which the fire-fighting forces of our cities and towns use today, because of the presence of the men being so much better informed than the average layman.

And yet, because I have some small, personal knowledge of the equipment that is used, I cannot but speak, in passing, of what the inventive genius of our people has adduced, to assist these men in their work. And these men give of their time and their help, and, if necessary, their lives to serve.

I heard the other day from a police officer in one of the towns of Rhode Island, about this fellow who was coming up from South Carolina to New Hampshire; having heard some of the eloquence of Governor Gregg, he couldn't get to New Hampshire fast enough, and he was proceeding at a moderate rate of speed, through the town of East Providence, in Rhode Island, when he was flagged down by a motor cycle cop, who said to him:

"Your rear light is out."

So he jumped out of the car, and ran around to the back, and sure enough, it was out.

He began to plead with the officer, and the officer said to him:

"Well, now, look, let's not get too excited about this; as you know, it's only a city ordinance that you have violated."

"The hell with you and the city ordinance; what's happened to the trailer with my wife in it!" (Laughter.)

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And as for the word "Non-partisan" that may seem a peculiar characteristic that I should discuss with you. But, I think that it is of the utmost importance and foremost in any discussion. I do not know of anything that is more non-partisan than a fire. It respects no creed, no political affiliation, and wealth means nothing. So that there is nothing more non-partisan than a fire, unless it is the men who fight them. They don't care whether the scene of the fire to which they are called is the home of the leading citizen or the least known man; they don't care whether he is white or colored; they don't care whether he is a taxpayer.

They don't care what his political affiliation may be. They are ready to risk their health and their lives, in his interests and if there is anything more non-partisan than that, I don't know what it is.

It is a wonderful thing, too, because I think that as human beings, we shall succeed eventually, in the ventures yet to come. Only when we have eliminated from our thinking, prejudice and bigotry of all kinds will we succeed.

And that reminds me of the case of Father Maguire, a Catholic Pastor of Sacred Heart Church, who was a close personal friend of Rabbi Goldstein. One day, the Catholic Church burned down, and Rabbi Goldstein called his friend, Father Maguire, and said:

"Father, I am shocked at your loss, and I want you to know that anything we can do to help, we will be happy to do it. If, for example, you would like to use the Synagogue for Mass on Sunday, we will be very happy to make it available to you."

Father Maguire thought that that was a wonderful offering, and he communicated it to the Bishop, who thought it a very generous and magnanimous gesture, and he advised Father Maguire to take advantage of it.

So they set the Synagogue up for Mass on Sunday. Because of the details involving in making the arrangements, they decided to have the Mass at eleven o'clock. About five minutes of twelve that Sunday morning, as all of these Irish Catholics came pouring out of the Synagogue where they had been to Mass, a stranger in the community by the name of Powers was passing through in a taxicab, and he said to the cab driver:

"Stop. Hold it."

And the cab driver said:

"What's the matter?"

"Nothing; just stop, as I want to look."

"What do you want to look at?"

"I ask you, but did you ever see a more phoney, crumby looking bunch of Jews!" (Laughter.)

And that, I submit, is the classical anti-religious discrimination story of all times. You may laugh; it has a lot of humor. But, far, far and beyond the humor involved, there is a point for all of us to take into our minds and into our hearts, to observe.

It may seem strange to you that the Attorney General who is generally affiliated with the enforcement of the law, should be the principal speaker for a Fire Chief's convention, but it doesn't seem strange to me, because the Constitution and the statutes of my State provide that the Attorney shall be coun-

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sel for the Rhode Island Division of the State Police, and they also provide that the Superintendent of the Division shall be the Fire Marshal, and they charge him with the responsibility of investigating fires of any suspicious origin, of collecting statistical evidence relative to all fires, within the State, and of establishing a Fire Prevention program.

And, so as Attorney General, and counsel for the State Police, I have some personal knowledge of how closely associated the Police and the Firemen of my State are, and I assume, I think, in all fairness, that although I have no personal knowledge of it, nevertheless, that association and cooperation are as close in all of the States of this nation as they are in Rhode Island.

As a matter of fact, present here tonight with Colonel Sheehan, is Sergeant McHugh who takes care of the details of the Fire Marshal's office; although he is a Sergeant in the Rhode Island State Police, I think he believes himself to be more nearly a fireman than a policeman. And I think that this association and this cooperation is a wonderful thing.

I know that the Police Chiefs of Rhode Island would consider it treason if I were to tell you that in my opinion, the men in the Fire Departments of our cities and towns are in the front line, the first line of Civil Defense. But, I believe it. However, I am afraid that they might say, at least I could include them, too, and that is a compromise, which I am willing to make.

Certainly the men and the women who devote their efforts, their energies, their talents and their training to protecting the rest of us are entitled to be considered as first in the ranks of public service, and I am very happy to acknowledge that publicly.

And so, Ladies and Gentlemen, like the little boy said, when he got out of the water:

"I draw near to my close."

I want to tell you how much I appreciate the invitation of the Chairman and his Committee and Andy Palmer, in making it possible for me to be here with you tonight, to break bread with you, and to have an opportunity to discuss just informally a few of the things that I think should be said publicly on behalf of the nation's first and finest citizens; the men in the Fire Fighting Forces of the nation!

Thank you very much! (Applause.)

PRESIDENT FORTIER: And thank you very much, Judge Powers, for that fine address, and also, I want to convey my thanks to Governor Gregg for his wonderful talk to us here tonight.

I am now going to turn this meeting over to Mr. Andrew Palmer, to continue, with the giving out of the prizes.

MR. PALMER: President Henri, Reverend Mr. Fitzsimmons, Father Collins, Governor Gregg, Judge Powers and these wonderful Directors that I enjoy working with so much. I don't know how many of you folks noticed, but after predicting good weather this afternoon, they sat me between two retired firemen, so that maybe I should retire, too, after the experience this afternoon.

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This afternoon, I met a lovely lady, and I want to say that I have met many since 1936 at these conventions; but, I was thrilled, in arriving at this head table tonight, to be asked to do this honor.

At this time, I should like to have Mrs. William E. Powers come forward to this table!

Mrs. Powers, the ladies of this Convention have accepted you, and they want you to feel a part, from here on, of this glorious organization! (Applause.) I have this little gift for you, which the ladies wish me to present to you. I was going to say that I would open it, but I want you to describe it for us.

But perhaps I will tell you what it is; it is a set of gold earrings; but, to us, they are more than just earrings; they are the five gold trumpets of the Fire Chief.

Mr. Palmer then presented to Mrs. Powers the gold earrings. (Applause.)

MR. PALMER: Now, if Chief Keefe and Chief Savage will come up here and help us to distribute the gifts that are waiting for you good people out there, we will try to get these to you quickly. And I want you to know it is Jack's birthday! (Applause.)

PRESIDENT FORTIER: And don't forget, it's Andy's birthday, too.

CHIEF PALMER: While they are getting ready, it is time for me to announce that we have a Dalmatian puppy that we are going to give away tonight.

(The prizes were then drawn, and the Dalmatian puppy was drawn last, the puppy going to Chief A. R. Capelli of Johnston, Rhode Island.)

(The Banquet meeting was adjourned at 10:15 o'clock and dancing was enjoyed for balance of the evening in the Ball Room.)

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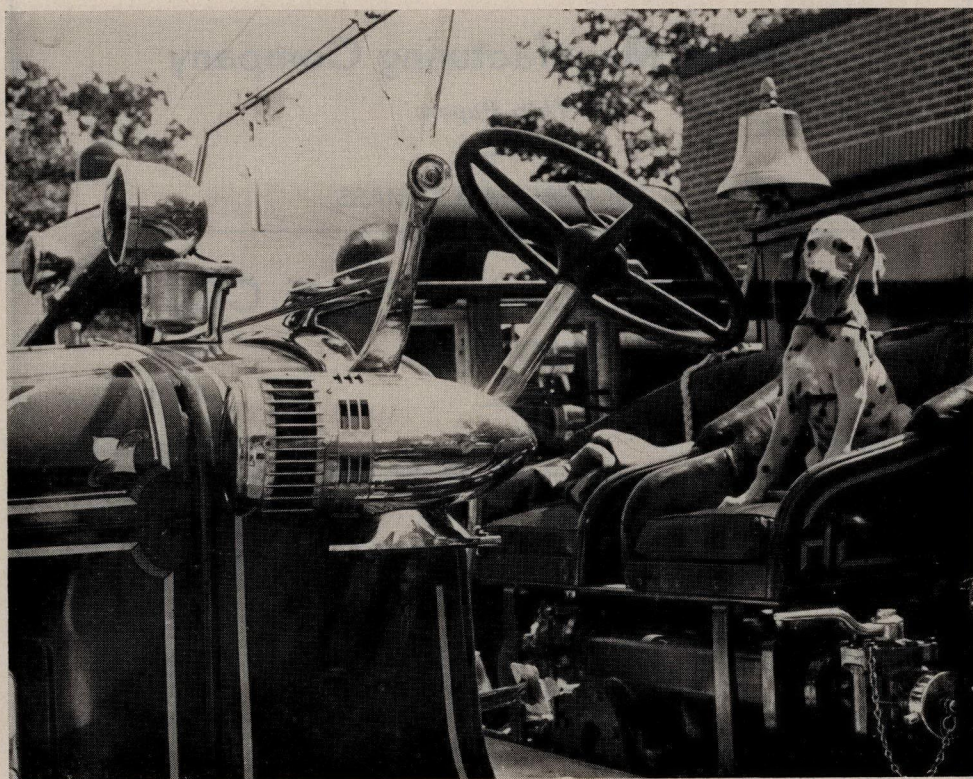
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Thursday Morning, June 24, 1954

The Thursday Morning Session convened at 10:10 A.M., with President Fortier presiding.

PRESIDENT FORTIER: The meeting will please come to order, Gentlemen.

The order of business this morning is the Report of our Secretary, and the reading of Communications.

SECRETARY O'HEARN: We have no communications.

As to my report, as usual, I shall make it as brief as I can. I have furnished each officer with a breakdown of our Receipts and Expenditures for the year.

Briefly I might say that we ran rather close to previous years; we didn't make as much money as we did the year before and that should be an objective for this year, to make more money so that if and when the occasion for need arises, we have something.

(Secretary O'Hearn then read his prepared report.)

TREASURER'S REPORT

1954

Following the custom of past years, your Secretary-Treasurer presents for your approval, a brief summary report covering membership and financial standing since our last annual report to closing of the books on June 1, 1954.

The treasurer's books show in detail all receipts and expenditures during the past twelve months as testified to by the Auditing Committee, appointed by the President, as per by-laws.

The entire financial report is not published as part of our annual report, but it is available to any member who may desire further information than what is reported here. A further breakdown of receipts and expenditures is furnished the Directors.

The total membership reported on June 1, 1953, was 1275 of which 735 were active members and 540 were associate members.

During the past year we lost by death 21 members, twenty-two members resigned and 58 were dropped for non-payment of dues which involved a loss to the association of \$348.00. We admitted a total of 114 new members during the year giving a net increase in membership of 13 for the year.

At the present time there are 63 members who owe \$6.00 each as of June 1st.

There appears to be a slight increase in the failure of members to pay their dues probably caused by carelessness. Of the total membership 745 paid dues before the opening of the conference. This relieves a lot of work at the registration desk and I appreciate the cooperation of those members.

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During the past year we have held but two meetings of all officers and committees. The first meeting was held at the Hotel Statler, Boston, on December 9, 1953, when plans were presented in preparation for our 32nd Conference. The second meeting was held at the Rockingham Hotel, Portsmouth, New Hampshire, on May 11th, 1954, when we were the guests of our genial host, Mrs. James Barker Smith which has been his custom during the years we have been meeting at The Wentworth. This meeting was well attended, final arrangements were made for our Annual Conference.

In view of the fact that our expenses have shown a sharp increase during the past two years, your officers have done everything possible to cut corners and still give you the same fine type of conference you desire and deserve without being forced to increase the annual amount paid for dues.

Every member should interest himself in the problem of increasing the membership as it means new life and new interest. It is surprising how many members there are who have never proposed one new member.

There were thirty-one members responsible for the 114 new members admitted during the year. Twenty-four were secured through the office and 22 were taken in at the last conference without sponsors. The balance of 68 were secured by 29 members, two of these were officers who admitted nine or ten each. With a little time and effort to increasing membership we can extend the good work we are doing among greater numbers.

The total membership on June 1, 1954 was 1288 of which 770 are active members and 518 are associate members, classified by states and include our Insurance Section and our Honorary Membership:

Maine	95	Indiana	3
New Hampshire	100	Michigan	2
Vermont	49	Colorado	1
Massachusetts	638	So. Carolina	1
Rhode Island	123	Virginia	1
Connecticut	211	Florida	3
Ohio	5	Pennsylvania	5
Louisiana	1	California	2
Canada	3	Mississippi	1
Alaska	1	Iowa	1
Wisconsin	1	Oklahoma	1

On June 1, 1953, the cash balance of the Association was \$14,691.34.

On June 1, 1954, the cash balance was \$14,787.47. Of this amount \$2,-224.60 is deposited in the Union Market National Bank checking account, Watertown, Mass. \$1,249.23 is deposited in the Watertown Savings Bank and \$8,131.64 is deposited in the Watertown Federal Savings and Loan Association.

Included in the cash balance of June 1, 1954, the Association owns Government War Bonds the present value of which is \$3,182.00 with a maturity value of \$4,300.00. These bonds are placed in the Union Market National Bank Vault.

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With reference to the funds deposited in the Watertown Cooperative Bank, I present the following statement from the bank:

Mr. John W. O'Hearn, Treasurer
New England Association of Fire Chiefs
206 Mt. Auburn Street
Watertown 72, Mass.

Dear Mr. O'Hearn:

We have three accounts reading in the name of the New England Association of Fire Chiefs with the following balance as of May 30, 1954:

Paid up shares	\$4,000.00
Savings Account (14093)	2,596.19
Serial Acct. (7088)	1,535.45
	<hr/>
	\$8,131.64

Very truly yours,

(Signed)

Warren J. Reardon,
Treasurer.

It is pleasing to report that we have had another successful year showing a slight increase in membership as well as financially. In conclusion, I wish to report what I have said year after year, the success which we enjoy can be attributed to the entire association and its leaders, your officers.

Respectfully submitted,

John W. O'Hearn,
Secretary Treasurer.

Boston, December 9, 1953.

The first meeting of officers and committee members for the 1953-54 Season was held on the above date at the Hotel Statler, Boston.

The meeting was called to order by President Fortier at 3:30 P.M. with all officers present together with the following committee members: Past President, William H. Clifford, 3rd, Reservation and Registration; Past President Joseph E. Scanlon and Chief Henry G. Thomas, Hartford, Ct., Topics and Speakers; and Chief John A. Savage, Exhibits.

The secretary presented a printer's copy of the proceedings of our 31st Annual Conference which was in the hands of the binder and expected to be ready for distribution by January 15 or 20th.

On Motion of the Secretary, the report was accepted as a true copy of the proceedings of our last meeting and the work accomplished during the past year.

The following deaths among members of the association during the past year were reported:

Edward A. Reny, Ex-Chief, Westbrook, Maine. Admitted June 21, 1937; died July 2, 1953.

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Ralph B. Harnden, Ex-Chief, Auburn, Maine. Admitted Jan. 18, 1946; died July 6, 1953.

C. E. Jacobs, Chief, Wakefield, Mass. Admitted Jan. 16, 1946; died July 25, 1953.

John J. Sheridan, Ex-Chief, Naugatuck, Ct. Admitted Aug. 18, 1941; died Sept. 11, 1953.

Clifford H. Barker, Boston Coupling Co. Admitted Aug. 18, 1941; died Sept. 20, 1953.

Norman C. Tarr, Ex-Asst. Chief, Wenham, Mass. Admitted June 25, 1946; died June 27, 1953.

Donald J. Kelley, Chief, Burlington, Vt. Admitted Aug. 18, 1941; died Oct. 30, 1953.

Letters of appreciation for sympathies or courtesies extended were received from the following: Philip N. Putney, Manchester, N. H.; Ex-Chief Frank Dickinson, Brockton, Mass.; Chief Richard J. Tierney, Arlington, Mass.; Samuel Anderson, Cambridge, Mass.; Chief John A. Laughlin, East Providence, R. I.; Ex-Chief and Mrs. David DeCoursey, Winchester, Mass.; Chief Otto Alletag, Warren, R. I.; Ex-Chief Frank Creeden, Newburyport, Mass.; Ex-Chief Charles Stackpole, Lowell, Mass.; the family of the late Chief Barber, Moosup, Conn.; Lincoln Estes, State Forester; Chief Ralph C. Robertson, No. Attleboro, Mass.; the family of the late Chief Clifford E. Jacobs, Wakefield, Mass.; Chief Roy A. Cook of Lexington, Mass.; the family of the late Chief Sheridan, Naugatuck, Conn.; the family of the late Chief George R. Pooler, Brewer, Maine; the family of the late Chief Francis O. Spaine, New Haven, Conn.; the family of the late Frank Gisborne, Greenwich, Conn.; and the family of the late Georgianna E. O'Hara, wife of Chief O'Hara, Somerville, Mass.

The following correspondence was presented by the Secretary:

From Mr. James Barker Smith, Managing Owner of The Wentworth, Portsmouth, N. H., relative to tentative conference dates for 1955. Found it impossible to take action, other than as governed by the By-Laws.

From Chief Michael J. Kane, Woburn, Mass., regarding a cash gift for the Association which was accepted with thanks.

Here the Secretary read his letter to the President of the Massachusetts Fire Chiefs Club extending our thanks for their cooperation and assistance to us in promoting the Resolution concerning Fire Alarm passed at our 31st Annual Conference.

From Percy Bugbee, General Manager, National Fire Protection Association, a letter of appreciation for our tremendous help in building interest in the Regional Conference on Fire Problems of Our Times sponsored by the NFPA, at the Sheraton-Biltmore Hotel, Providence, R. I., Oct. 29-30, 1953.

From Fred J. Maloney, Lieutenant of Police, Director, Civil Defence, Worcester, Mass., expressing thanks and appreciation for courtesies extended to Mrs. Maloney and himself at our June Conference.

From Chief Herbert F. Travis, Worcester, Mass., on the death of our fellow member, Chief Frank G. Hatstat at Paxton, Mass., who lost his life as a result of the Worcester tornado.

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From Director Koltonski, Rutland, Vt., a letter reporting the extended illness of Chief Donald J. Kelley of Burlington, Vt., who passed away on Oct. 30th, 1953.

On Motion of Director Koltonski, it was voted that the association make a suitable gift to Mrs. Kelley.

The Secretary reported on the fine, well conducted Regional Conference of two days held by the NFPA in Providence, R. I., and stated that the association was well and ably represented on the program.

Chief Scanlon, Chairman of Topics Committee, made a most complete report on topics and speakers for the June Conference. All brought out much discussion on the various topics presented and were well received.

Chief Slaman, Chairman of Exhibits, presented a progressive report and stated that he had already been contacted for space.

Roi Woolley, our Technical Consultant, expressed a willingness to do all possible to assist in carrying out another successful conference and extended thanks from the Editor of Fire Engineering for our continued interest by furnishing items of interest for the official journal, Fire Engineering.

Voted to adjourn at 5:30 P.M. for social hour and dinner with the ladies who had been in conference for the afternoon discussing their problems for the 1954 conference.

On the following day, December 10th, our officers and ladies enjoyed lunch and entertainment with the Massachusetts Fire Chiefs Club at their Annual Christmas Party.

Respectfully submitted,

John W. O'Hearn,
Secretary.

May 11, 1954, Portsmouth, N. H.

The second meeting of all officers and committees was held on the above date at the Rockingham Hotel, Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

The meeting was called to order by President Fortier at 11:00 A.M., with all officers and committee members present including the ladies who were assigned a private room for their meeting.

The records of our first meeting held at the Hotel Statler, Boston, on December 9, 1953, were read by the secretary and were accepted.

The secretary reported letters of appreciation for courtesies or sympathies extended from the following:

The family of the late Chief Donald Kelley, Burlington, Vt., the family of the late Chief Harold Nickerson, Brunswick, Maine, the family of the late Chief George Mullen, Shrewsbury, Mass., the family of the late Deputy Chief Robert M. O'Leary, Meriden, Conn., the family of the late John H. Griffin, Editor of the Boston Post; the family of the late Sarah B. Dooling, mother of Chief Dooling; the family of the late C. Frank Creeden, Ex-Chief, Newburyport, Mass., the family of the late Samuel A. Anderson, Cambridge, Mass., the family of Elizabeth Marsh, Watertown, Mass.; Chief Dooling, Malden, Mass., Chief Horne, Millbury, Mass., Chief Arthur C. Flynn, Peabody, Mass., Chief Sidney

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C. Field, Melrose, Mass., Ex-Chief Charles Stackpole, Lowell, Mass., Chief Thomas Wallace of Buzzards Bay, Mass., Mrs. George C. Graham, Bristol, Connecticut.

The secretary announced the receipt of a letter from Mr. James Barker Smith, Managing Owner of The Wentworth, with reference to dates of the 1955 Conference. Also announced were the receipt of letters from Frank Doudera, The Balsams, Dixville Notch, N. H., regarding the 1955 Conference; J. Austin Peckham with reference to a circular being distributed to homeowners advocating the removal of paint by use of a blow torch. This was referred to the question box. A letter was also received from Chief Henry G. Thomas, Hartford, Connecticut, expressing regret at not being able to attend the May 11th meeting.

Committee reports followed and were well discussed.

Voted the opening session of the June Conference would be held on Monday afternoon, June 21st at 3:30 o'clock with no evening session, the evening being devoted to a get-together and the showing of the 1953 conference movies.

It was also voted to extend to the New England Division of International, the use of the Ballroom following the Memorial Exercises for their Annual meeting and election of officers.

President Fortier reported that he had secured the services of the Honorable William E. Powers, Attorney General, State of Rhode Island, for the banquet speaker.

It was voted that the registration fees remain the same as other years, \$2.00 for every male guest registering and \$1.00 for the ladies.

Voted that the same rule prevail as in previous years, that is, all places of entertainment remain closed during the business sessions and that the playing of musical instruments cease at midnight.

Voted that time be permitted for any question submitted at all sessions, and that a question box be placed in the hotel lobby, this to be so stated in the final notice sent to members.

Following the business meeting all adjourned to the hotel dining room where we were served a lobster dinner. Mr. Smith addressed the officers present about the dates for the 1955 Conference and final action on this matter was deferred until the conference.

Respectfully submitted,

John W. O'Hearn,
Secretary.

SECRETARY O'HEARN: If any one wishes to hear a breakdown any further, I would be glad to give it to them.

PRESIDENT FORTIER: Are there any questions any one wishes to ask regarding the Secretary's report?

MR. CHARNOCK: I move the acceptance of the report of the Secretary.
This motion was duly seconded and was carried.

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PRESIDENT FORTIER: We are now going to have the report of the Auditors, by Chief Dagon.

CHIEF DAGON: The books of the Secretary-Treasurer have been audited and found to be correct and in excellent condition.

PRESIDENT FORTIER: Next is the report of Committees, and the first Committee is on Exhibits, by Chief Slaman.

CHIEF SLAMAN of Wellesley: I have only a partial report, as all of the expenses are not yet in. We have 48 exhibitors with a total estimated receipts of \$2,300.00. When all of the figures are in and complete, a report will be made in full. I want to thank my Committee, and all of the members of the Association who helped to make this year's Exhibit a success.

CHIEF POTTER: I move the acceptance of the report of the Exhibit Committee.

This motion was duly seconded, and carried.

EXHIBIT COMMITTEE—FINAL REPORT

The following firms were exhibitors at our 32nd Annual Conference:

Motorola, Inc., 4545 Augusta Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois.

Harry J. Lovell, 894 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Mass.

Grinnell Sprinkler Company, 260 West Exchange Street, Providence, R. I.

Superior American Fire Alarm & Signal Co., 48 Elm Street, Meriden, Conn.

Mine Safety Appliance, 201 North Braddock Avenue, Pittsburgh 8, Pa.

A. F. Robinson Company, 200 Second Street, Cambridge, Mass.

Wooster Brass Division, 1415 E. Bowman Street, Wooster, Ohio.

Eureka Fire Hose Company, 1230 Avenue of Americas, New York 20, N. Y.

Akron Brass Manufacturing Company, Wooster, Ohio.

Dictaphone Corporation, 420 Lexington Avenue, New York 17, N. Y.

Connecticut Telephone & Electric Corporation, Meriden, Conn.

Eggleston Supply Company, 253 Franklin Street, Boston, Mass.

E. I. Du Pont De Nemours & Company, Wilmington 98, Delaware.

The Protectowire Company, Hanover, Mass.

General Electric Company, 963 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston 15, Mass.

S-T Hydrant Wrench Company, 12 Silverwood Terrace, South Hadley, Mass.

E & J Resuscitator Company, 585 Boylston Street, Boston, Mass.

Peter Pirsch & Sons Company, Kenosha, Wisconsin.

General Alarm Corporation, 89 Broad Street, Boston, Mass.

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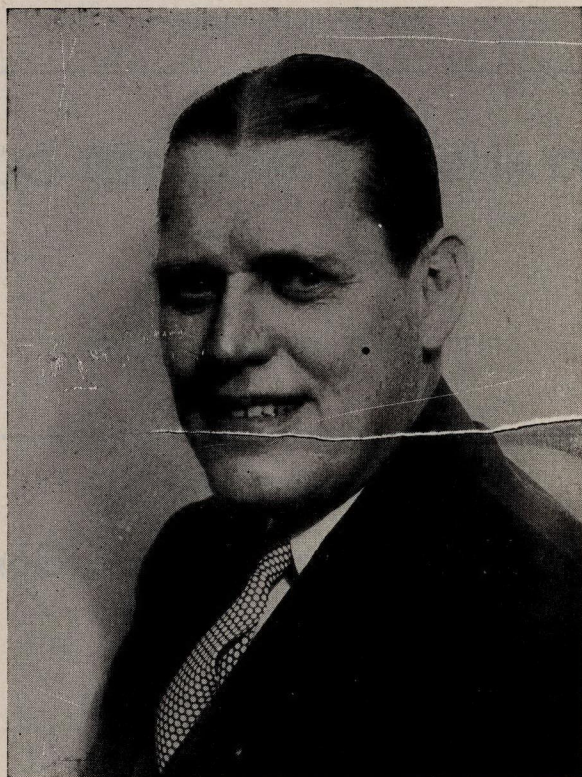


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M. Linsky & Bros. Inc., 1 Washington Street, Boston, Mass.
 Charles Clougherty Company, 39 Miller Street, Medfield, Mass.
 Mack Motor Company, 75 North Beacon Street, Boston, Mass.
 American LaFrance Company, 28 Brighton Avenue, Boston, Mass.
 Justin A. McCarthy Company, 176 Federal Street, Boston, Mass.
 Boston Coupling Company, 293 Congress Street, Boston, Mass.
 Farrar Company, Woodville, Mass.
 Homelite Corporation, 267 Cambridge Street, Allston, Mass.
 The Gamewell Company, Newton Upper Falls, Mass.
 Rockwood Sprinkler Company, 38 Harlow Street, Worcester, Mass.
 American Fire Equipment Company, 717 Boylston Street, Boston, Mass.
 Midwestern Manufacturing Company, 480 Westminster Street, Providence, R. I.
 J. M. Baker Pattern Company, Inc., 62 Sprague Street, Providence, R. I.
 Maxim Motor Company, Middleboro, Mass.
 Wear-Well Uniform Company, 164 Washington Street, Boston 8, Mass.
 D. B. Smith Company, Main Street, Utica, N. Y.
 C. G. Braxmar Company, 216 East 45th Street, New York, N. Y.
 Scott Aviation Corporation, Lancaster, New York.
 Seagrave Corporation, Columbus, Ohio.
 Ward LaFrance Company, 55 Allerton Avenue, East Providence, R. I.

Total Receipts from Exhibitors	\$2360.00
Total Expenditures	510.20
Net Receipts	\$1849.80

On behalf of the members of the Exhibit Committee, I wish to express my thanks and appreciation to the exhibitors for their cooperation and effort in presenting their displays and demonstrations, and for their courtesy in providing the numerous prizes given during the Conference.

CHIEF THOMAS H. SLAMAN, *Chairman*
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PRESIDENT FORTIER: The report of our Registration will be given by Chief Koltonski.

CHIEF KOLTONSKI: Mr. President, and members of the Association. On Monday, we registered 175 active members, 96 associate members, 12 male guests, and 182 female guests, and 3 new active members.

On Tuesday, we registered 43 active members, 46 associate members, 9 male guests, 41 ladies, 1 new associate member.

On Wednesday, we registered 52 active members, 24 associate members, 29 male guests, 48 lady guests, 2 new active members and 7 new associate members.

We had a total of 28 new members taken at the Conference.

The total for the Conference was, 270 active members, 166 associate members, 50 male guests, 271 lady guests, 5 new active members, 7 new associate members; total, 772.

The total amount collected at the desk was \$1,254.00.

PRESIDENT FORTIER: Thank you, Chief Koltonski.

CHIEF MURRAY: I move that this report be accepted.

This motion was duly seconded, and was carried.

PRESIDENT FORTIER: Next, we are going to have the report of the Courtesies Committee.

CHIEF MURRAY: As the Chairman of the Committee has gone along, he asked me to read this report to you.

The following is the report of the Courtesies Committee:

"The New England Association of Fire Chiefs is about to close its 32nd Annual Conference. We, of the Association, feel that it has been a very successful and a happy meeting.

"The Association wishes to express its grateful appreciation to His Excellency, Hugh Gregg, Governor of New Hampshire, Hon. William E. Powers, Attorney-General of Rhode Island, City Manager, Robert C. Violette, of Portsmouth, Theodore Butler, Mayor of Portsmouth, Chief Ralph G. Seavey of Rochester, New Hampshire, Chief Crompton of Portsmouth, Town Officers and people of Newcastle and Portsmouth, and our genial host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. Smith and their son Jimmie, who have assisted in every way possible; our Chaplains, our officers and the various committees, and especially the Entertainment Committee, for their fine entertainment.

"As usual, our stay, here, has been most delightful and profitable, due to the efforts and the contribution of all connected with the Association.

"Therefore, Mr. President, it is the recommendation of your Committee that the most sincere thanks of the Association be formally extended to these fine people."

This report is respectfully submitted by Chief Francis Scully, Chairman, Chief Murray and Chief Holmes.

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PRESIDENT FORTIER: Thank you, Chief Murray.

SECRETARY O'HEARN: I move that the report be accepted and made a part of the record.

This motion was duly seconded by Chief Potter and other members present and was carried.

PRESIDENT FORTIER: The next report will be that of the Resolutions Committee, by Chief Marshall.

CHIEF MARSHALL: We have one resolution to present this morning, in regard to the use of the blow torches and the advertising, concerning the use of them as follows.

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS: It has been brought to the attention of this New England Association of Fire Chiefs at annual conference assembled this 24th day of June, 1954, at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, certain advertising matter describing for use of the average citizen, the use of a blow torch to melt resin off knots and resin-rich boards.

WHEREAS: this use of blow torch would be contrary to safety standards and practices of prevention of the many fires occurring from this practice of using blow torches in preparing surfaces for paint.

WHEREAS: we are concerned that the broad use of blow torches by the average citizen would be sure to result in many, and serious fires, and would increase the loss of life and property by fire, now therefore, be it

RESOLVED: that this New England Association of Fire Chiefs, at annual Conference assembled, strongly condemns the use of blow torches.

And further, strongly condemns any advertising matter that implies the use of blow torches by the average citizen in preparing the surface of his home for painting.

CHIEF LEWIS A. MARSHALL, Providence, R. I., Chairman.

CHIEF WALTER R. MURRAY, Weymouth, Mass.

CHIEF G. NAPOLEON GUEVIN, Manchester, N. H.

Additional Resolutions. As a Result of a Question by Chief Ray D. Wells, Falmouth, Mass.: "How Can the Small Town Chief Control Curiosity Seekers at Large Fires?" (See discussion on Wednesday, June 23, A.M. Session.) Page 227.

Resolutions adopted by the Committee on Resolutions and accepted by the Board of Directors as outlined in the proceedings of the Conference, June 24, 1954. Ordered printed in 1954 Annual Report.

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RESOLUTION NO. 1

WHEREAS: It has been brought to the attention of this New England Association of Fire Chiefs assembled this 24th day of June, 1954, at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, of certain practices by motoring public

WHEREAS: These practices of curiosity seekers in parking their automobiles so as to interfere with fire apparatus and with additional apparatus needed at a serious fire, this additional help has been severely delayed and in some cases had to resort to relay pumping, being unable to get near the scene of the fire

WHEREAS: We are concerned knowing this practice has on many occasions caused tremendous delay and confusion and resulted in many large loss fires with resulting injury to fire personnel.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: That this New England Association of Fire Chiefs at annual conference assembled, strongly condemn the aforesaid practice and that this resolution be sent to the proper authority in each New England state, seeking cooperation necessary to end this evil so as to promote speedy and efficient fire service to the citizens of various states.

RESOLUTION NO. 2

WHEREAS: The fire service of the Nation is faced with ever-increasing handicaps in responding to and returning from fire and other emergency calls, and

WHEREAS: This is primarily a traffic problem and one that is becoming more acute as Radio and Television stations increase the broadcasting and televising of these various emergencies to which, the Fire and other emergency services must respond, and

WHEREAS: Previous efforts by the New England Association of Fire Chiefs and Divisional Association of the International Association of Fire Chiefs to regulate the mass movements of vehicles and people which impede the response of the fire forces, through more selected dissemination of the news of public emergencies, have failed to improve conditions

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: That the International Association of Fire Chiefs be authorized to appoint a suitable, representative committee of Fire officers and other specialists, to make a thorough study of this growing problem, and to submit recommendations to the Association members, of all regional divisions, for appropriate action to be taken to remedy the conditions and to prevent their further costly development.

Chief Lewis A. Marshall, Providence, R. I., Chairman

Chief Z. F. Drouin, Lewiston, Maine

Chief G. Napoleon Guevin, Manchester, N. H.

Chief Miland H. Jordan, Springfield, Vt.

Chief Walter R. Murray, Weymouth, Mass.

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Resolution No. 1 was submitted to International Association for action supporting a similar one presented by the Eastern Division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs at their 81st Annual Conference, Houston, Texas, Oct. 18-22, 1954. (No Action.)

PRESIDENT FORTIER: You have heard the report of the Resolutions Committee. What is your pleasure?

CHIEF KOLTONSKI: I move that we accept the report of the Resolutions Committee.

This motion was duly seconded and was carried.

PRESIDENT FORTIER: Are there any other committees to report? If not, we will go on to the matter of Unfinished Business.

CHIEF GEORGE HARPER, Putnam, Conn.: This may not be under new business or unfinished business, but I want to say, here and now, that many of us Fire Chiefs come to this meeting every year, with one thought in mind, and that is, receiving information that we can take back to our Fire Departments. I am referring to the Round Table Discussions.

I would like to make a motion that the proper Committee for next year allow one day for Round Table Discussions, and give us a chance to ask questions and have them answered. That would be a day, but it could be broken up into sessions, and we could have a break, a seventh inning stretch, so to speak.

CHIEF KIMBALL: If the good Chief would accept an amendment, I would like to say that those of us who came up here on Sunday practically wasted the whole day Monday, with the exception of the Memorial Exercises, and I am wondering if something couldn't be done either Monday morning or evening. Even though we have extended our convention to four days, I don't think we got as much out of it as we formerly got out of three days. I think that should be given some thought. I don't think that an amendment is necessary, because the Chief has hit the nail on the head, with more round table discussions.

CHIEF WELLS: We could have the Memorial Session in the morning and the Round Table Discussions in the afternoon. And, the Chiefs will get here if they are interested enough in the program. In addition to that, we want to get all of our questions answered. Perhaps I was very lucky that I got my question answered; but, some of the boys here weren't so lucky.

We know that when Roi Woolley gets up there and says that we've got to make it snappy, then we've got to hurry up. I am not criticising Roi, but I do think that these fellows here should have the right to get up and talk, and also, have their questions answered. And probably we can dispense with referring all of the questions to six or eight Chiefs, but get the question answered by somebody on the Panel who will volunteer an answer, tell us what they have, and then let us talk about it. That is a real Conference, and I have been pleading for it for years.

And I want to vote that the Program Committee or the Officers consider seriously the Morning Memorial Session and an afternoon and evening session, if necessary, on a real round table discussion, giving the members an oppor-

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tunity to get an answer to their questions. Put the question box in the first thing, and let them drop their questions in. Give us the technical advice and the papers which are good, following the Round Table Discussions, but give the boys a chance to have what we should have, not a convention, but a Conference, if we're going to have a Conference, let's confer!

PRESIDENT FORTIER: Thank you, Chief Wells. You say the first thing Monday morning; now, we don't know at the moment whether we will begin the Conference on a Monday or a Tuesday. Could you omit that word "Monday" for the moment?

CHIEF WELLS: Yes, I will say, "On the Opening day, let us have the Memorial Services in the morning, and then have our Round Table Discussions," and then we are getting warmed up to the whole Conference, and ready to go.

PRESIDENT FORTIER: From the reports that I have received, the Round Table Discussions are the most important topic in the whole Conference, and every one gets a great deal of benefit from them.

Are there any more remarks on this motion? Hearing none, those in favor of the motion will please manifest by saying "Aye." Those opposed?

There was a chorus of "ayes" and the motion was carried.

PRESIDENT FORTIER: Is there any unfinished business to come before the meeting?

If not, the next order of business is the designation of a place for holding the next Conference.

SECRETARY O'HEARN: Mr. President and members. I have two communications here. I have one dated May 3rd, addressed to me, at Watertown:

(Secretary O'Hearn then read the following letter regarding the invitation to hold the 1955 Conference at the Balsams.)

Now, in that letter, I was asked to give him the time and dates, of this Conference which he already had on two occasions, because every letter that went out told when and where, and he is on the mailing list. He said that it was his intention to come and extend an invitation to go to the Balsams. He has been here, and I had quite a talk with the old fellow, but he didn't extend any invitation. He told me he would be here Thursday, when we close, and he would make a little speech that would break the house down. Well, he is not here; he went home. I gave him a little advice, and I don't know whether he went home with that or not. I told him the facts.

The Balsams is a grand place, but as you know, of course, it is a long way from here. I was there three times, I think, and the facilities are not as good as those we have here.

I am not talking for the Wentworth. But, for some of you fellows who don't know what the situation is, I don't believe that they could take care of us. The facilities for garaging are nothing like we have here. The last time we had exhibits there, we had them in their garage; Chief Melendy was Chairman of the Committee, and he had some off-duty firemen from Nashua, who

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kept going back and forth for a week, building stalls and places to have the exhibit. It costs a lot of money and time to do that.

Again, I am not saying a word about the Balsams; it is a beautiful spot, and it is a nice place.

Now, that is all I know about that. I am giving you that information, so that you can use your own good judgment.

Now, I have a letter here dated June 22, 1954, addressed to me, for the Association, as follows:

Gentlemen:

"It gives me extreme pleasure to extend a warm, cordial and personal invitation to our wonderful friends, the New England Association of Fire Chiefs, to meet with us at The Wentworth-By-The-Sea on June 21, 22, 23 and 24, 1955.

"You are well aware of our facilities and services, so I shall not dwell upon these features.

"With reference to the rates, these will undoubtedly be the same as 1954. We anticipate no increase at this time.

"I think attention might be directed to the fact that by next year the super-highway from Boston to Portsmouth will be completed, and it will be possible to reach The Wentworth-By-The-Sea from the outskirts of Boston in a little over forty-five minutes. This same convenience of travel extends to the Chiefs coming from Connecticut, Rhode Island and Western Massachusetts.

"Anticipating the pleasure of having you with us again, we are

Cordially yours,

JAMES BARKER SMITH, *President.*"

Now, the days are designated as June 21, 22, 23 and 24; the 21st is on a Tuesday.

I believe it is in the minds of the officers serving you now that there will be a change in the program method. I know that it was intended for this year, but there were one or two little things that slipped. So that I think it is their intention to open up on Tuesday, and give the four full days Conference purposes.

And, of course, some of us who can stand it can come up on Sunday and loaf around on Monday; that is your business, and you are welcome. We know there are many fellows who are not being paid to come here, a great many of them don't get any expense money, and the Conference has been held off, for the beginning, until the Afternoon Session so that they could get here.

I know that it is hard to please everybody; but, I am satisfied that your Committee is doing the best it can. This year, there was just one slip, and that was by chance.

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I know, also, that the Committee, this year, felt that there might be a gimmick in the situation, if the Panel didn't go over too good. And, in order to take care of any such possibility, on the first day, two speakers were added, just as fill-ins, and it happened as they thought it might happen, where one fellow had to wait until the next day to give his talk. And I want you fellows to know that that was why there were two speakers on the program for one session.

Now, the Lord has been good to me; you fellows are keeping me on again, without raising my pay, and I will do all I can to put over the program, as I understand you want. I have nothing else to do.

CHIEF GORMAN: It is not quite clear to me as to the reason for starting the Conference on Tuesday instead of Monday. Maybe you can clarify that a little bit.

SECRETARY O'HEARN: Ray Wells clarified it very well. Some of us fellows do come up here on Saturday or Sunday, and we have a little bit of extra recreation; but, that is no reason that we are going to open the convention up on Monday morning, just because we are here, and we know that there are a whole lot of fellows who can't afford to get here until Tuesday; we want to give them the four full days of discussion.

We always did start on Tuesday; then we got kind of generous; we had a good place to come to, and we made it a week-end vacation for many to come in on Saturday or Sunday for those who could afford it, and then start the Conference on Monday afternoon.

CHIEF GORMAN: Let us clarify one point on the financial side of it. I have come here several times and paid my own way; a couple of times, I have been fortunate enough to have the expenses taken care of.

I am still not clear why the thing isn't started on Monday morning. If a man wants to come to the convention he can get here Monday morning. I don't see why you have to start on Tuesday. I don't think that is a satisfactory reason as to why we should have to lay over until Tuesday. That is only my personal opinion.

SECRETARY O'HEARN: I have one more answer to that. We are not running the hotel.

CHIEF GORMAN: I said it wasn't clear to me, when somebody said we should start on Tuesday.

SECRETARY O'HEARN: That was my suggestion. We always had it, previously, on Tuesday, until within two or three years. But, we are not running the hotel, and as you know, we had some difficulties last year, with fellows coming in and they could get no beds, because there was another convention here. And yet, you would not ask the proprietor of the hotel not to have a convention over the week-end, I don't believe.

CHIEF GORMAN: That clarifies the reason, in my mind, and I thank you.

CHIEF ADAMS, Milford, Mass.: It looks to me as though the Chief who has his expenses paid will be up here on Sunday, as usual, and he will get the best accommodations, and the fellow who can't get his expenses paid is going to come up here on Tuesday instead of Monday, and he is going to land up within one inch of the asphalt shingles and within a half inch of the north wall.

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I don't believe the purpose will be obtained by deferring the starting of the Conference until Tuesday, because you are going to increase a situation that is already bad.

I have been coming up here a good many years, and I have been paying my own expenses, and I have been getting very poor accommodations, because I must assume, primarily, it is because I do not arrive here until Monday.

Now, what is going to be the result for these Chiefs when they arrive here on Tuesday? They are not going to be at The Wentworth; they're going to be at a motel distantly removed from here.

I see no reason why the convention cannot start Monday morning promptly at 9:00 or 10:00 o'clock, instead of on Tuesday. And start promptly, and not an hour or so late, as we have done in some years.

CHIEF DESLAURIES of Ware: I have been coming to these Conferences since 1931. This morning, I went to the desk and I paid them \$112.00 for room accommodations for my wife and myself. Now, for next year, it will mean digging down in my pocket for another \$24.00, or coming up here on a Monday. I like to come up on a Sunday and then get back home and take care of things on Friday and Saturday.

CHIEF ADAMS; I don't know that the spot of the Conference has been decided, but I would offer a motion that the 1955 Conference start on a Monday. And, those who wish to come prior to that, all right. And terminate on Thursday. In other words, the first four consecutive days in which the hotel can accommodate us.

CHIEF SLAMAN: Just a minute, Mr. President, as I remember our meeting over at the Rockingham Hotel, Mr. Smith came in to us and asked us if there was any way possible that we could start our Conference on Tuesday, in 1955; that is why those dates were given here this morning. I believe that it is for 1955, only. Am I right, John?

SECRETARY O'HEARN: I believe so, unless I misunderstood it. The best thing to do is to have Jim Smith answer the question.

CHIEF ADAMS: Regardless of the conversation carried on at the Rockingham between our officers and the Management of this hotel, I don't believe that this is the proper place, now, for Mr. Smith. This is a matter for us to determine and decide.

CHIEF GROTE: I am one of those volunteers who sends in his reservations early. I must disagree with my brother Chief who spoke about the early ones getting the cream of things here. If there is anything like that, I'd like to know about it. This year, I'll admit that I did get a better room than I had last year.

Now, I know it isn't going to make any difference to me whether you start on Monday or Tuesday. I am still going to send in my reservations early. I know I'm going back this time, satisfied that I got treated better this year than last year.

CHIEF ADAMS: Let me say that my reservations were in the hands of the Committee equally as fast. I know that every one cannot have the best accommodations. I know that the people who come in on Monday are going to have poorer accommodations than the people who come in on Sunday, and I expect that.

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And so I think that you are creating a bad situation by saying you are not going to open until Tuesday.

CHIEF WELLS: I pay my expenses and I have done so for thirty-five years. We like to come up on a Sunday, because of the longer time it gives us. But, now, if you are going to stretch it out until Friday, it means that I am going to pay \$28.00 in addition to the \$112.00 I pay, and that means a lot to me.

I am not a \$50,000 Chief, nor am I a high-paid Chief. I come from a little town, and I pay my own expenses and always have.

I think the Fire Chiefs, who have been here for nine years, are not getting a break for 1955, if this hotel has accepted a convention which is going to keep our conference over until Tuesday. And furthermore, if they are having another convention here, then we will not even be able to get accommodations on Sunday, and it means that the week-end is cut off, for those of us who come up here early.

This is a vacation to me; it is the only one that I get. For me, the arrangement has been nice, and especially so since we have been beginning on Monday and, ending on Thursday. Why can't we continue the same situation?

Let us clarify the situation and find out about it. If we cannot have the hotel until the 21st, we have all got to come on Tuesday. If it is otherwise, then why can't we do as we did this year?

CHIEF ANDREWS of New Bedford: This comes rather as a surprise, for, in my opinion, the men are perfectly satisfied the way it has been going. I believe that 98 per cent of the permanent members of the Association were in favor of starting on Monday and closing on Thursday, as we have done this year.

CHIEF SLAMAN: Jim Smith is here, and he can probably give the members a great deal of the information which they are seeking.

PRESIDENT FORTIER: I don't believe that we could go into that business with Mr. Smith before we accept the location.

CHIEF POTTER: I think that we will have to learn from Mr. Smith whether the hotel would be available to us on the days we want it, before we vote to come here that Monday.

PRESIDENT FORTIER: May we hear from you, Mr. Smith?

MR. JAMES B. SMITH: Well, gentlemen, perhaps I should have a blackboard here, to explain this to you completely. But, I shall try to do it without the blackboard.

The situation has arisen with reference to next year, due to the way the dates fall, which I want to tell you about. We have always had, for the last twelve years, the New Hampshire Jewelers Association, and they come in on the last week, running about 125 people, for a two-day period; they would have June 26 and 27. That would leave the 28th, 29th and 30th practically vacant, before our regular summer guests come in.

In the meantime, I had a chance to take a group, a sorority group for the 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th, with them filling the house to capacity. But, I couldn't take them and take the Jewelers' group at the same time.

Even though the Jewelers have been here for twelve straight years, I did tell them that our expenses are of such a nature that I would have to take this

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group of 400, who would come in for five days, rather than a group of 125 for two days. They asked to move their date up on week. Their business is of such a nature that they do about 85 per cent of their business on the late week-end, and they wanted the week-end, and I told them that I would have to consult with this Association, because you had always come in on a Sunday and started meetings Monday afternoon.

In your group, this year, we had about 211 people with us on Sunday. Then, by Monday, ~~the whole group was in and the house was filled up.~~

If we did what we thought was possible, we would have 211 of your people with us on Monday, and your group would come in on Tuesday, the Jewelers checking out immediately after breakfast Tuesday morning. We were hoping that there might be a possibility, of moving back just one day.

Anybody who wanted to come in on Sunday could still do so, because the Jewelers would not fill the hotel; they only take 125.

If this is not satisfactory, it would mean that the Jewelers who have been coming here for all these years would have to find other space for one year. And that is the problem involved, here.

This would mean a financial sacrifice of about \$10,000. Actually, that means a little sacrifice on everybody's part, because we proceeded to put all the money back into the hotel, outside of our living expenses, out of what we have taken in.

Now, the argument was made that some people would like to be here on the week-end, and that they were on a budget, and I am sure that that will have certain weight in your thinking. On the other hand, if the Association could, without damaging the attendance or otherwise, move back one day, it would surely be appreciated very much by us.

I think that about winds up. I do want to say that we do not want this problem to interfere with this Association in any way; and, if it cannot be worked out to have your first meetings on Tuesday, it would be unfortunate, because the Jewelers will have to be squeezed out this particular time.

I think that this will give you the information you want.

PRESIDENT FORTIER: Thank you very much, Mr. Smith. Do any of the members wish to ask any questions at this time?

CHIEF SCANLON of Lynn: I think that Mr. Smith forgot to mention that this arrangement is only for 1955.

MR. SMITH: Yes, this is for 1955 only. And, incidentally, while I am on my feet, I should like to mention the matter of rooms.

During the meeting, we did have one filled night. On Monday night, we carried six vacant rooms. Tuesday night, we were filled. Last night, we carried about 16 or 18 vacant rooms.

Now, in explaining about the rooms, the only thing that I do say is that any of the personnel, any of the Chiefs who find out that they cannot attend the convention at any time, if they would let the hotel or Chief Sanborn know, then we would free that space for other people to have it. And, on Monday night, I know that some people were slightly unhappy with their accommodations, and they could have been made happy, if those people had written in and said they were not coming in on Monday night.

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Now, if there are any questions, I should be glad to try to answer them for you.

CHIEF KIMBALL: I think that the majority of the Chiefs had expressed themselves prior to Jim's coming in here, and I should like to see Jack Adams' motion put at this time.

CHIEF WELLS: If the Jewelers' convention only have 125, wouldn't there be accommodations possible, whereby that group may have a meeting and we could have our meetings too, in the room where the Bingo games are?

MR. SMITH: That is not the question; it is the rooms upstairs that constitute the bottleneck. You see, their convention would center around Monday night, and that is the night you had six vacant rooms; so that it would be a matter of rooms.

CHIEF KIMBALL: And they want Sunday and Monday?

MR. SMITH: Yes. As I endeavored to explain, on Sunday night, you had 211 people here. Now, if you put your meeting on, on Tuesday instead of Monday, we would have those 211 in the hotel, and by the time your group arrived on Tuesday, then we could take care of them.

CHIEF KIMBALL: With the 125 of the Jewelers, you wouldn't have accommodations for both groups?

MR. SMITH: Not unless you move back one day, starting your meetings on Tuesday, which would mean your dispersal on Friday. In other words, then, we would figure that the majority of the Chiefs would come up on Tuesday, or one day later.

CHIEF ADAMS of Marblehead: I don't know anything about the Jewelers, but when I asked Chief Scanlon to confer with the Major, it was not my intention to set any particular dates. I thought that it would improve our situation to have a Monday meeting, but I did not know, at the time, of any Jewelers' convention. And, I simply thought that we would get an expression of opinion here. I don't know whether I am for the motion, but I should like to see the Directors get an agreeable arrangement with Mr. Smith.

PRESIDENT FORTIER: Chief Adams, as a suggestion, could it be left to the Board of Directors?

CHIEF ADAMS: I don't know whether it is good business to leave it to them to handle, or let the majority of the Chiefs have their say, here. In all fairness, I hope the thing can be worked out.

CHIEF SLAMAN: At the meeting of the Board of Directors, Mr. Smith made the suggestion, and we told him that it would have to be decided at the Conference. Now, here we are at the Conference. Decide it.

CHIEF ADAMS: That's fine. But, we didn't know until Major Smith came in here anything about the Jewelers' convention.

CHIEF ANDREWS: If there are no further questions of Mr. Smith, I would suggest that we excuse the Major, and then we can talk about this matter further.

CHIEF COLLINS: How many rooms do the Jewelers have?

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MAJOR SMITH: They have 50 or 60 rooms; they are practically all double. And I might say that your key men would have the same rooms which they have year after year.

CHIEF KIMBALL: On this matter of the Round Table Discussions, if we start Tuesday, we Chiefs who pay our own way certainly want more time for the Round Table Discussions, and that is the reason that we wanted Monday morning for the Memorial Service.

MR. SMITH: All right. I don't want this to stand in the way of you Chiefs; the Chiefs come first; they still come first with us. If you vote to come on Sunday and Monday, we will have to work out some other arrangement with the Jewelers.

PRESIDENT FORTIER: I am willing to entertain another motion, and we can discuss it.

CHIEF ADAMS, of Marblehead: I don't know that I have the courage to withdraw the motion. I simply mentioned that we did not know about the confusion and the difficulty.

PRESIDENT FORTIER: Then, will you repeat your motion for us?

CHIEF ADAMS: I made the motion that we open the Conference on a Monday, and terminate on a Thursday.

This motion was duly seconded by several of the members present.

(The question was then called for.)

PRESIDENT FORTIER: We haven't voted the place, yet.

All those in favor of opening the Conference on a Monday, and terminating it on a Thursday, will please manifest by raising their right hands. Those opposed?

A majority raised their hands for the Monday meeting, and the motion was carried.

PRESIDENT FORTIER: I declare the vote is carried, that we open the meeting on Monday.

CHIEF KIMBALL: I move that we accept the invitation to come to the Wentworth.

This motion was duly seconded by Chief Wells and others present and was carried.

PRESIDENT FORTIER: The next order of business is the Election and Installation of Officers.

SECRETARY O'HEARN: First, let me say that we have received a telegram from Chief Kirwan, that Fire Chief James W. Barker of Middletown, Rhode Island, passed away this morning.

Mr. President, I move that we rise in silence for a moment, out of respect to the memory of the late Chief.

(The audience then rose in silence for a moment, in reverent memory of the late James W. Barker of Middletown, Rhode Island.)

PRESIDENT FORTIER: For the election of officers, I am going to ask, first, for nominations for the office of President.

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CHIEF POTTER: Mr. President, I know that I am speaking for all the members of this Association from the State of Connecticut, when I place in nomination the name of Chief George C. Graham of Bristol.

CHIEF GEORGE HARPER: Mr. President, the Delegates from Connecticut appreciate the privilege of seconding the nomination for George C. Graham as President of this Association. (Applause.)

PRESIDENT FORTIER: Are there any other nominations for the office of President?

CHIEF PACHL: I move that nominations be closed, and that the secretary cast one ballot for the election of George C. Graham as President of the Association.

This motion was duly seconded and was carried.

(Chief Graham was then escorted to the rostrum by Sergeant-at-Arms Dooling.)

PRESIDENT GRAHAM: As my first duty in office, I consider it an honor and a privilege, as your successor, Chief Fortier, to pin this Past-President's badge on you, and I want to congratulate you for your very successful administration and a job well done. (Applause.)

CHIEF POTTER: Mr. President, I have been asked to perform another duty here this morning, which gives me a great deal of pleasure. Chief Fortier, or, should I say, Past-President Fortier, it has been the tradition of this organization to present something tangible to the outgoing Presidents, something to remind them of the appreciation of this Association for a fine job well done.

After much consultation, it was decided that the gift that would serve you best would be a comfortable chair, for you to enjoy your relaxation in, after your year of strenuous duties here.

When you return to your home, you will find that chair, and I am hereby presenting you with a receipt, so you will know you will have ownership of the chair, when you get home! (Applause.)

PAST-PRESIDENT FORTIER: I want to take this opportunity to thank you, Gentlemen, and also the officers who have helped me so much during this past year. And, I want to assure George Graham that he doesn't have to worry, for, with the help of our Secretary, he cannot go wrong; he is always a step ahead of us, and further than that, he is watching the pocketbook of the Association very well, too.

Thank you very much for this lovely gift! (Applause.)

PRESIDENT GRAHAM: I want to take this opportunity to thank you gentlemen for the confidence that you have placed in me. I know that it is a great honor to be the head of this great organization, and I want to thank you, one and all, and ask you for your cooperation, such as you have given to my predecessors, for I know that with your help and the help of the good Lord, we will be able to carry on successfully for another year.

I was glad to hear the remarks about the Panel Discussion. I am heartily in favor of having more time for them, and I am also in favor of one other thing that I think I should tell you about at this time. When we have a meeting scheduled for 9:30 in the morning, during my term of office, the gavel

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will fall at 9:30, whether there are two in the room or fifty, and the rest can come in as they see fit, and miss whatever of the good things on the program there are. (Applause.)

The Chair is now ready to receive nominations for the position as First Vice-President of this Association.

CHIEF SCANLON: I should like to nominate Chief John Keefe for the office of First Vice-President, John Keefe of Bellows Falls, Vermont.

This nomination was duly seconded by several of the members present.

CHIEF WELLS: I move that nominations cease, and that the Secretary cast one ballot for the election of Chief John Keefe of Bellows Falls, for the office of First Vice-President of this Association.

This motion was duly seconded by many of the members present, and was carried.

SECRETARY O'HEARN: I have cast the ballot.

PRESIDENT GRAHAM: The ballot has been cast and I declare Chief John Keefe of Bellows Falls duly elected as First Vice-President of this Association.

(Chief John Keefe was then escorted to the rostrum by Sergeant-at-Arms Dooling.)

CHIEF JOHN KEEFE: I want to take this opportunity of thanking the members from all of the States in New England for this very distinguished honor of serving as Vice-President of this Association, and I want to say to you, George Graham, that I will give you my hearty support in all of your endeavors for 1955. (Applause.)

PRESIDENT GRAHAM: Thank you, John. The nominations are now open for the office of Second Vice-President of this Association.

CHIEF CLIFFORD: Mr. President, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to nominate Chief Horace S. Jose of South Portland, Maine, for the office of Second Vice-President.

This nomination was duly seconded by many of the members present.

CHIEF ANDREWS: I move that nominations be closed, and that the Secretary cast one ballot, for the election of Chief Jose of South Portland, for the office of Second Vice-President of this Association.

This motion was duly seconded by many of the members present, and was carried.

SECRETARY O'HEARN: I have cast the ballot.

PRESIDENT GRAHAM: And I declare him duly elected to that office, as Second Vice-President of the Association.

CHIEF JOSE: I appreciate the honor very much, and you may rest assured that I will labor with the rest of the crew to make the Association a success next year. Thank you very much! (Applause.)

PRESIDENT GRAHAM: The Chair is now ready to receive nominations for the office of Secretary-Treasurer of this Association.

CHIEF SLAMAN of Wellesley: I would like to place in nomination our present Secretary-Treasurer to continue in his present office, John W. O'Hearn of Watertown.

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This nomination was then duly seconded by several of the members present.

A MEMBER: I move that nominations be closed, and it couldn't happen to a better guy! Will the President cast a ballot for his election.

This motion was duly seconded by acclamation of the members present, and was carried, unanimously.

PRESIDENT GRAHAM: I have cast the ballot, and I declare John W. O'Hearn duly elected as Secretary-Treasurer of this Association for the ensuing year. (Applause.)

SECRETARY O'HEARN: Mr. President and Members of the Association. I have noted that the President cast the ballot, and my name is on it. I can't have more to say than thank you; I have talked too much already. I will try to even do better next year, and I hope the Lord spares me so that I can go on with you.

I like the discussion we had here this morning; you are going away, more pleased, because you have shown a real interest in the work of the association.

And now, it's up to you to fix the salary; that is done annually, as you know. Sometimes I have a dread of that salary business. In 1952, you increased it by \$300.00. I took it during the last twelve months. I wish, now, that you would deduct it and get me back to \$1,200.

Thank you all very much! (Applause.)

CHIEF PACHAL: I move that the salary of the Secretary Treasurer be the same as before.

This motion was duly seconded, and was carried.

PRESIDENT GRAHAM: Gentlemen, Chief Fortier, by virtue of having served as President of the Association the past year, becomes a Director, as the immediate Past President, and the Chair is now ready to receive nominations for the Director from the State of Maine.

CHIEF MURRAY: I would like to nominate Oliver T. Sanborn, Portland, as Director from the State of Maine.

This nomination was duly seconded by several of the members present, and was carried.

PRESIDENT GRAHAM: I declare Chief Sanborn duly elected to the office of Director from the State of Maine.

CHIEF SANBORN: Again, I want to thank you for your confidence, and I do want to say that we will try to satisfy everybody, but, as you know, that is almost impossible; nevertheless, we will continue to do our best for the benefit of this organization.

Thank you, again! (Applause.)

PRESIDENT GRAHAM: And thank you, Chief Sanborn.

Nominations are now open for the office of Director from New Hampshire.

CHIEF GUEVIN, Manchester: I rise at this time to place in nomination the name of Chief Clarence A. Green, Concord, to be a Director from New Hampshire.

This motion was duly seconded by many of the members present, and was carried.

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PRESIDENT GRAHAM: I declare Chief Green duly elected to the office of Director from the State of New Hampshire.

CHIEF GREEN: Thank you, Gentlemen; I will try to do my utmost to serve your wishes. (Applause.)

PRESIDENT GRAHAM: Nominations are now open for the office of Director from the State of Vermont.

CHIEF KELLEY: I wish to place in nomination the name of Alfred Koltonski of Rutland, Vermont.

This nomination was duly seconded and was carried.

PRESIDENT GRAHAM: And I declare Chief Koltonski duly elected to the office of Director from the State of Vermont.

CHIEF KOLTONSKI: Thank you very much, Gentlemen. Next year at the Registration Desk, we will be glad to take your money again! (Applause.)

PRESIDENT GRAHAM: Nominations are now in order for a Director from the State of Massachusetts.

CHIEF KIMBALL: Mr. President, I wish to place in nomination the name of Chief Tom Slaman of Wellesley for the office of Director from Massachusetts.

This nomination was duly seconded and was carried.

PRESIDENT GRAHAM: I declare Chief Slaman duly elected to the office of Director from Massachusetts.

CHIEF SLAMAN: Thank you very much for this honor. I will try to carry out the position of Director of Massachusetts to the best of my ability.

PRESIDENT GRAHAM: Nominations are now in order for a Director from the State of Rhode Island.

CHIEF MARSHALL: I wish to place in nomination the name of Chief Cote, for the office of Director from the State of Rhode Island.

This nomination was duly seconded and was carried.

PRESIDENT GRAHAM: And I declare Chief Cote duly elected as Director from the State of Rhode Island.

CHIEF COTE: Again, I want to thank you all for making me a Director for 1955. (Applause)

PRESIDENT GRAHAM: And now, we come to the great State of Connecticut, and we are open for nominations for a Director.

CHIEF THOMAS: I am happy to offer you the name of Francis Dagon from the State of Connecticut, for your Director.

This nomination was duly seconded, and was carried.

PRESIDENT GRAHAM: I declare Chief Francis Dagon of East Hartford duly elected as Director from the State of Connecticut. (Applause)

CHIEF DAGON: Thank you for this honor, and I will try to fulfil the office to the best of my ability. (Applause)

PRESIDENT GRAHAM: The Chair has the prerogative of making certain appointments, and at this time, I should like to read the appointments I have selected to make:

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Our official photographer, who does such a good job, I would like to appoint Lieutenant Edward J. Carroll of Brookline.

For our Chaplains, I am happy and honored to appoint Father Collins and Reverend Mr. Fitzsimmons. (Applause)

SECRETARY O'HEARN: Mr. President, I am happy to announce that our Chaplain, Reverend Mr. Fitzsimmons, had to leave to go to Pittsfield, Massachusetts, where, I understand, he is to become Chaplain of the State Department of the American Legion. (Applause)

A MEMBER: Mr. President, I move a Committee confer immediately with Major Smith, and report back to us here.

PRESIDENT GRAHAM: Major Smith is in the room, and I will ask him to come up to the rostrum.

MAJOR SMITH: Well, gentlemen, we certainly thank you for voting to come back to the Wentworth. I know that the Captain at the Balsams is a fine friend of ours for many years past; he didn't remember me, but he said:

"Now, I am not going to bid for this Association, unless you miss it."

I said to him: "Captain, I wouldn't miss it a bit more than my right arm!"

So I certainly know how the Captain feels about wanting you there, because we feel very close to the Association. This morning, we heard that they were going to extend an invitation from Rhode Island. We weren't so worried about that, because we knew they could only assemble 125 rooms under one roof down there.

I want to say that it is a wonderful pleasure to have the Fire Chiefs back. You are the first group we ever had here, and you are a wonderful group of Americans, doing a fine work all over the country, with the respect and admiration of all of the citizens in the various communities.

When we have a fire out here and then when we hear the truck coming over, it is the best sound that we could possibly hear. Fortunately, we have always been able to quench the fires, by the time the truck gets out here; it is a little run from Portsmouth. But, it is a wonderful thing to know that you people are in continuous readiness to help us.

It is so nice to know that the boys are going to be back with us, and we will work out the dates to suit your satisfaction, and naturally, if there is anything else that I can do, I will surely do it. And, thank you again, very much! (Applause.)

PRESIDENT GRAHAM: Is there any other business to come before this meeting?

Is there any new business to come before the meeting?

If not, a motion to adjourn is in order.

CHIEF DAGON: I move that we adjourn.

This motion was duly seconded and was carried.

(Whereupon, the Thursday Morning Session of the 32nd Annual Conference of the New England Association of Fire Chiefs was adjourned at 12:00 o'clock noon, on June 24, 1954.)

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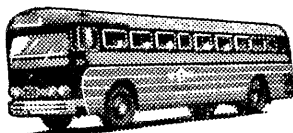
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PENNSYLVANIA	5
OHIO	5
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VIRGINIA	1
COLORADO	1
LOUISIANA	1
FLORIDA	5
MICHIGAN	2
SOUTH CAROLINA	1
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CANADA	3
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