

PUBLIC SAFETY

Educate on Drunk Driving

► **CONCENTRATION** on high school age education against drinking-driving was advised as one of the best ways of educating the public on its dangers.

Routine campaigns are not enough to stop drunken driving, Donald Cahalan, president of American Research Bureau Surveys, New York, told the National Conference on Alcohol and Traffic Safety in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Members of the high school group could have more effect on the teenagers than policemen if their leaders would earnestly present the harm in drinking and driving, he said.

Shock pictures and other anxiety-producing methods are likely to be ineffectual unless constructive guidance is given, and any educational campaign should promise rewards for good behavior rather than mere punishment for wrongdoing.

Uniform methods of using chemical tests (degree of alcohol in the blood) as evidence of fitness to drive would probably help to raise the level of public cooperation in the drinking-driving problem, Mr. Cahalan said.

In addition to intensifying the high school driver training program, the speaker advised "upgrading of the status of the driver's license." This could be done by more intensive testing, establishing higher qualifications, and using various grades of licenses and insurance differentials as rewards for careful driving.

• Science News Letter, 79:338 June 3, 1961

Party Hosts to Blame

► **PARTY HOSTS** encourage drunken driving by pressing drinks upon their guests, it was reported at the National Conference on Alcohol and Traffic Safety in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dr. Ira H. Cisin, director of the Drinking Practices Study in Berkeley, Calif., told the conference that the party host is afraid of being thought stingy unless he keeps glasses filled. A new basis for group approvals, founded on scientific studies and supported by basic social custom, should be found, Dr. Cisin said, but the public must care enough about the problem to find practical ways of solving it.

Rigid enforcement of speed and traffic laws, restriction of licenses of drunken drivers, party pools in which nondrinkers drive, possible automatic devices on the road that would stop cars swerving from the correct lane were among the suggestions made.

Self-evaluation devices could be used, Dr. Cisin suggested.

It might become quite a game at parties to test oneself with a little puff-meter. For those who fail the test, it is not inconceivable that a sobering pill could be developed to counteract the effects of alcohol.

Any solution to the problem of drunken driving is dependent upon willingness of

the drunken driver to avoid driving while drunk. Achievement of this willingness in itself offers a challenge to the public's "skill in mass motivation and the engineering of attitude change," Dr. Cisin said.

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Accident-Prone Persons Impulsive, Rebellious

► **PERSONS** who always seem to have accidents are generally impulsive, rebellious against authority and want to punish themselves.

These characteristics continually crop up in psychiatric studies, Dan D. Gowings of the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Harrisburg, reported at the Building Research Institute meeting in Washington, D. C.

The accident-prone person gives little thought to planning and anticipating future pleasures. The rebellion against authority is carried over from childhood experiences, and the hostility even applies to safety rules and regulations, Mr. Gowings said. This results in a higher than average percentage of accidents in the home for these persons.

The need for self-punishment (accident) supposedly salves the guilt resulting from the hostile feelings of the accident-prone person.

However, the study also revealed that persons are accident-prone for only a certain period in life, and the accident-prone group actually changes from time to time.

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Shark Control Research

► **THE "BUBBLE CURTAIN"** supposedly so terrifying that sharks will not swim through it even for a juicy steak is not reliable, shark experts have reported.

The American Institute of Biological Sciences, the American Museum of Natural History, the Office of Naval Research and Cornell University announced jointly that the bubble curtain had been retested with tiger sharks, some of the most vicious sea animals.

Dr. Perry W. Gilbert, a Cornell zoologist, supervised tests at Bimini, B.W.I., and found that tiger sharks quickly adjusted to the presence of the curtain, created by forcing compressed air through perforated pipes laid on the bottom of the tank. Most ignored it after the first hour, he said. Throughout the various tests, only one shark of nearly 100 tested was repeatedly turned by the bubble curtain. The great majority swam freely back and forth through it.

At the Symposium on Oceanography in the Midwest, another shark expert cor-

PUBLIC HEALTH

Water Pollution Bill Facing Opposition

► **A STRONG** water pollution control bill, designed to put teeth in the fight against this United States blight, is experiencing rough going in the Senate.

The bill, already passed by a resounding vote in the House, is now being thrashed out in the Senate Public Works subcommittee, headed by Sen. Robert S. Kerr (D.-Okla.), a sponsor of another water pollution control bill. Recent subcommittee hearings pinpointed important differences in the two bills that may have to be settled by a House-Senate conference committee on the important measure.

The House bill, introduced by Rep. John A. Blatnik (D.-Minn.) strongly reinforces the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1956. It increases the annual appropriation for Federal grants to construct state-approved waste treatment plants from the current \$50,000,000 to \$100,000,000, and provides Federal control of interstate and intrastate coastal and navigable waters, only if the action is requested by a state or by a city with the state's approval. The present law is limited to intrastate waters although waters ignore such artificial boundaries as state lines.

Sen. Kerr's bill asks for \$75,000,000 in grants, and would not give the Federal Government the enforcement powers recommended by Rep. Blatnik. Instead the Senator strongly urges that waters held back by Federal dams be released during low flows to prevent waters from stagnating and becoming polluted. Other provisions of the two bills, such as more funds for research and construction of field laboratories, are quite similar.

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rected another misconception about sharks.

Dr. Fritz F. Koczy of the University of Miami reported that contrary to popular belief, sharks can smell blood only from a few hundred feet away, not from miles away. However, a shark can hear underwater sounds for several miles and he probably uses this ability to get within smelling distance.

Dr. Warren Wisby, also of University of Miami, is studying the range of shark hearing. Using electrical shock, a microphone that sends out sounds ranging from 15 to several thousand cycles per second and an echo-proof, underwater tunnel, Dr. Wisby has trained his sharks to anticipate shock when they hear a sound. The trained shark's heart begins to race madly when the animals perceive sound. By monitoring the heart, the scientist can tell when the animal is hearing the sound and can thus establish the hearing range, which is now being done.

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