

Mr. W. MAY. We have learned that in those localities that have installed the breakaway light poles the experience has been wonderful in that people do not get killed.

Mr. O'HARA. Yes, sir. I am glad you mentioned that. I did not want to get ahead of myself. I think this will be covered in another hearing.

Mr. BLATNIK. But Mr. May has had pictures, slides by Mr. Linko, showing that with aluminum type pipes or poles for lights, where the concrete was flush with the ground, the aluminum would shatter with minor damage and minimum damage to the occupants.

Mr. O'HARA. Yes, sir.

Mr. BLATNIK. What is the guideline or guiding factor in the determination by a State, whether to use a rigid-fixed steel pipe or aluminum pipe or some breakable material for light stands, Mr. Prisk? Is it left up to the States to choose, or are there any directives or guidelines sent out by the Federal bureau?

Mr. PRISK. On Federal-aid projects in general, of course, we have asked that due attention be given to getting as much competition as possible between suitable types of materials that are alternately employed in the usual design practice. It comes down to steel and aluminum. We have talked exactly the same way, that competition should be maintained at the best possible level in the interest of an economic program. But we have attempted to point out also the features that relate to this shearing off that occurs with the lighter type of pole.

You may make a pole that will shear off out of steel or aluminum, either one. The aluminum basically is more brittle material. But, depending upon the alloys, steel or aluminum can both perform satisfactorily, reasonably well.

The State makes the initial determination, of course, and we give our approval to the pole. In this case, evidently the State of Maryland decided to use the steel pole, and very obviously we must have approved it.

Mr. BLATNIK. Mr. O'Hara.

This occurred in January of this year on the beltway, resulting in a fatality. This is the light pole that was struck.

