

slides and make such other presentations as you wish to try to get the message across to the lower echelons of the State highway department organization.

I think that would be extremely helpful.

Mr. W. MAY. We appreciate that. Dr. Haddon, the other day AASHO representatives testified here and they seemed to be upset concerning the new standards that were recently issued. I quote from Mr. Eugene Johnson's statement:

We make brief reference to the new highway safety standards issued on June 27 by the Department of Transportation. Only a week ago most of the State highway departments had not yet seen these standards, and could not comment on them. As a result, we requested sufficient copies from the National Highway Safety Bureau to send to the State highway departments.

It seems they were late in getting the standards, and it seems that they were not consulted with respect to the final draft of the standards. Do you have some comment to make?

Mr. BRIDWELL. Mr. May, I wonder if I may respond to that?

Mr. W. MAY. Surely.

Mr. BRIDWELL. I think several points need to be made here. One is that following the instructions of the Congress, under the Highway Safety Act of 1966, our statutory lines of communication with the State is through the Governor or his designated representative.

In terms of the overall content of the highway safety program, a number of State agencies, in addition to highway departments, are involved.

So that we do not work with State highway departments in the highway safety program in the same way that we do in the Federal highway construction program. Notwithstanding that fact, AASHO as an organization in highway departments in the individual States, was consulted at length, as well as many other organizations, in the development of the standards.

The report which was submitted to the Congress on July 1 and made available to this committee has in the front of it a chronology of principal events since the Highway Safety Act was passed. And I would call to your attention that on September 15, in the old Department of Commerce, the Under Secretary of Commerce met with selected State officials concerned with highway safety and representatives of State governments.

On October 7 the Secretary wrote to each Governor requesting appointment of a liaison individual to work with the National Highway Safety Agency. In a number of instances, Governors designated the State highway department of the individual State for this responsibility.

On December 5 and 6 the Governors' representatives, the Department of Commerce, and the Highway Safety Bureau met with the Governors' liaison representatives for a 2-day meeting to discuss preliminarily draft or material to go into draft standards, and, of course, in many instances the State highway departments were represented.

On February 16 there was another meeting with the Governors' liaison representatives and a long discussion was held on the detailed proposals for the highway safety program standards.