

Another meeting was held on February 21 with various national associations interested in the highway safety program, including AASHO.

Then on March 16 the President appointed the National Highway Safety Advisory Committee which had to be consulted under the statute on the safety standards, and one of the members appointed was a prominent official of AASHO.

On September 7 of this year letters were sent to all of the Governors by the Highway Administrator requesting once again comments on the draft standards that had been supplied to them in February.

And on April 25 and again on June 6 and 7, the Highway Safety Advisory Committee met to consider the standards and AASHO was represented at that time.

Now, I could go on and detail some others, but I would like to specifically comment that AASHO as an organization participated in a meeting on December 6.

AASHO as an organization was requested to supply their comments, suggestions, and so forth, on the draft standards issued in February.

AASHO was invited, as an organization, to attend a meeting of the Governors' representatives in February.

And because we are not getting comments in from the States as rapidly as we thought we should on the draft standards, we work through the regional highway administrators and the Bureau of Public Roads division engineers with the highway departments, to get in their comments individually.

So I guess in terms of consultation with AASHO as an organization and with the individual highway departments, there were just many, many instances and certainly many, many opportunities.

Now, relating to the specific point of their inability to get the standards, the standards were adopted by the Secretary on June 27. The same day or the following day two copies were mailed to each of the Governors, and the Governors' liaison men in these States, with the presumption obviously that they would let each of the individual State agencies interested in the program know what the standards said.

In addition to that, we started over the next several days to mail 50 additional copies to each of the States for distribution among the interested State agencies, and State officials, and that mailing was completed on July 11.

In addition to that we supplied copies of the standards to a number of organizations, including the motor vehicle administrators, and upon the request of AASHO, furnished them enough copies for individual mailings to the State highway departments.

Mr. W. MAY. I gather that you consider that AASHO and the individual State highway departments were consulted sufficiently in the drawing up of these standards?

Mr. BRIDWELL. As thoroughly as it was possible to do between the time that the Highway Safety Agency was organized, essentially in November, and December, until the actual standards were promulgated by the Secretary in June; yes, sir.

Mr. W. MAY. Is it your intention that they will be consulted in the future when any other standards are drawn up or revisions are made?