

Mr. Moss. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. WATKINS. Yes.

Mr. Moss. I would like to observe that the Commerce Committee did a number of years ago authorize the establishment of a clearing-house to be maintained by the Federal Government for the accumulation of records of arrests, suspensions, and actions adverse to the driver so they would be available to any State desiring to participate in an effort to deal with this problem.

Mr. SMITH. I remember it well, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Moss. So we have a record in this committee of being concerned and taking the action which appeared appropriate.

In the final analysis under the present pattern of law, the licensing of drivers is a State responsibility.

Mr. SMITH. Correct, sir.

Mr. Moss. We hope that it can remain a State responsibility. I think it is one far too frequently taken lightly and this occurs in many instances in courts of lowest jurisdiction and before judges of little or no training.

But the fact is that it does occur and every one of us when we travel the highways are exposed to the danger of the impatient, incompetent driver, and there are many of them.

I think there should be far more rigid requirements imposed than are presently imposed and that the court should more realistically approach the problem of meting out punishment when there are flagrant violations before them.

Mr. WATKINS. Mr. Chairman, I have no objection to making that a part of the record pertaining to this subject.

Mr. Moss. Without objection, the article will be received for the record at this point.

Mr. SMITH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(The article referred to follows:)

[From Journal of American Insurance]

EPITAPH FOR A DEADLY DRIVER

TEN PEOPLE PERISHED AS DEATH FINALLY RULED OFF THE ROAD A LONG-TIME OFFENDER

Ralph Kusnierz' record of driving violations began on April 4, 1956, when he was arrested for making an improper turn. The last entry came on September 7, 1967, when his weaving convertible collided head-on with a station wagon on a highway near Downers Grove, Illinois.

Kusnierz was killed in the crash. In the twisted, burning wreckage of the station wagon police found the bodies of Arthur Hoffmeister, his wife and five children, and his wife's parents.

A policeman at the scene speculated that Kusnierz might have suffered a heart attack. Witnesses said they saw Kusnierz' westbound convertible careen crazily, go through a stop light, cross over the highway center line and smash head-on into the eastbound station wagon. One witness said the convertible was going 80 mph at the time of the crash.

Authorities called it the worst auto accident in Illinois history. Police, trying to piece together the cause of the accident, immediately requested a copy of Kusnierz' driving record from the secretary of state's office. They found out what they had suspected: Ralph Kusnierz was a dangerous driver who should have been ruled off the road.

Since 1956 he had a record of convictions for seven moving traffic violations—once for drunken driving; once for driving with a revoked license; three times for speeding, and twice for lesser offenses. Other notations included two wrecks,