INDUSTRIAL UNION DEPARTMENT, AFL-CIO,
Washington, D.C., March 21, 1968.

Hon. JOHN E. MOSS,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Commerce and Finance, Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee, House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Industrial Union Department, AFL-CIO, urges the enactment of H.J. Res. 958 which authorizes a comprehensive investigation of the automobile insurance industry by the Department of Transportation.

At the recent convention of the Industrial Union Department, our resolution on Consumer Needs urged: "Comprehensive Federal legislation that prohibits geographic, economic, occupational and racial blackouts, cancellations, discriminatory premium rates and establishes a Federal Motor Vehicle Insurance Guaranty Corporation to protect insurers against insurance company failures. To lower insurance costs and provide full compensation for injuries, we should establish a national accident compensation system and pay auto insurance claims similar to the way health and accident claims are paid."

The automobile insurance industry has for too long followed policies that damn the public. The case has been made over and over again of automobile insurance industry abuses that arbitrarily cancel policies based exclusively on age, race, occupation, and place of residence and other unrelated items and that refuse to insure applicants for the same reasons.

Insurance rates have risen as much as 30% in the past six years. Rates were raised in 40 states in 1965, 23 states in 1966, and the trend continued in 1967. According to the Consumer Price Index, insurance rates increased in 1967 by 45.1% since the 1957–59 base period. All other items priced in the Index averaged an increase of 18.2% for the same time period. In at least 20 states, insurance rates were increased without public hearings.

The public scandal linked with the automobile insurance industry affects working people the hardest. Years of neglect have made our public transit systems obsolete. Increasingly, the only way for an employee to get to his job is to drive. Refusal to insure means that workers in many instances are effectively cut off from jobs of their choice and capability.

H.J. Res. 958 should be approved speedily so that a full comprehensive investigation will begin. Such an investigation would then lead to measures that will give the American public a fair and economical system of automobile insurance.

I request that this letter be inserted in the hearing record.

Sincerely yours,

JACK BEIDLER, *Legislative Director.*

COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA,
Washington, D.C., February 29, 1968.

Hon. ARCH A. MOORE, Jr.,
House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

MY DEAR MR. MOORE: On February 13, 1968, the Executive Board of Communications Workers of America passed a resolution urging a wide scale investigation of the practices of the automobile insurance industry, and recommended a possible alternative to existing industry practices.

On behalf of the 420,000 people whom we represent, we ask that you give your earnest attention to this problem.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH A. BEIRNE, *President.*

COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA EXECUTIVE BOARD, STATEMENT: INSURANCE OR ASSURANCE?

The advent of the automobile has been an important source of social progress. In our lifetime it has become an almost indispensable mode of transportation, enabling millions of Americans to enjoy the benefits of suburban living by commuting to and from.

Unfortunately this progress has exacted its price. The most noticeable cost of course is the astronomical accidental death and injury rate on the nation's highways. It is estimated that over 50,000 people have died on America's high-