

*Highway Traffic Accidents*

Nesbitt	Smith (Winnipeg North)
Nowlan	Southam
Nugent	Speakman
O'Hurley	Spencer
Ormiston	Stanton
Pallett	Starr
Pascoe	Stewart
Pugh	Tassé
Rapp	Taylor
Regnier	Thompson
Ricard	Villeneuve
Richard (Kamouraska)	Webb
Rompere	Webster
Sevigny	Weichel
Simpson	White
Smallwood	Wratten—112.

## NAYS

## Messrs:

Argue	Howard
Badanai	McIlraith
Batten	McWilliam
Boivin	Martin (Timmins)
Cardin	Meunier
Carter	Michaud
Chevrier	Peters
Denis	Racine
Deschatelets	Ratelle
Dumas	Regier
Eudes	Richard (St. Maurice-
Fisher	Lafèche)
Forgie	Robichaud
Habel	Tucker
Houck	Winch—29.

## HIGHWAYS

PROPOSED COMMISSION TO INQUIRE INTO  
TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS**Mr. J. W. Kucherepa (Hight Park) moved:**

That, in the opinion of this house, the government should give early consideration to the advisability of appointing a royal commission to examine and make recommendations upon traffic accidents in Canada.

He said: Mr. Speaker, the problem of traffic accidents has interested me for some years now. In 1955 I had the privilege of being the chairman of the traffic committee in the city of Toronto and it was from this experience that I developed a great interest in this important subject. I wonder how many people are aware that during the ten years following world war II more Canadians were killed by traffic accidents than in the second world war. The heavy toll of deaths, injuries and property in motor vehicle accidents on streets and highways in Canada is a national problem of increasing importance.

Last year some 3,000 people were killed by motor vehicles, tens of thousands were injured and more than \$100 million of property damage was involved. The volume of traffic is increasing steadily and only a sound and thorough approach to the solution of this problem can reduce accidents or prevent an even greater loss of life, limb and property. The everyday inhumanity, the

[Mr. Speaker.]

accustomed brutality in this regard does not seem to shock the minds of our people. We appear to accept it without horror or shame. Death and woundings by motor cars in Canada during 1959 were the highest on record and there is no doubt that each and every one of these accidents could have been avoided as, literally speaking, there is no such thing as an accident.

Canadians as well as others appear to have developed a tolerance for their own peculiar forms of manslaughter and self-destruction but this attitude must be shattered by a more rigid adherence to the existing laws or by conforming to new and better measures which will have to be taken to preserve the lives of our people.

You have all read from time to time, in newspapers issued prior to a national holiday, the predictions of road fatalities and injuries that can be expected to take place during these few carefree hours as a result of traffic accidents. Should we as Canadians not be ashamed that such a situation should exist whereby this is almost becoming a new kind of sport where the score is envisaged prior to the event in the same manner as we might guess the score of the forthcoming Saturday night hockey game? We consider the early Canadians who saw nothing shocking in the habit of hanging a man for petty thievery as being backward. What would they think of a generation not moved to horror by its own inhumanity in permitting lethal machines to be loose on peaceful roads to slaughter wantonly and injure innocent fellowmen. We express a righteous indignation and forceful protest against cruelties committed or tolerated in other countries or in other times but the cruelties and killings resulting from motorcar accidents incidental to Canadian business or pleasure arouse in us only mild regrets which are often unexpressed for politeness' sake.

The following figures from the "Canada Year Book 1959" represent the number of motor vehicle traffic accidents and deaths resulting therefrom for the year 1957:

Accidents Reported	
Total .....	220,670
Fatal accidents, resulting in death of one or more persons .....	2,798
Non-fatal, resulting in injuries to one or more persons .....	54,036
Resulting in property damage only .....	163,836
Persons Killed	
Total .....	3,258
Drivers .....	793
Passengers .....	763
Pedestrians .....	692
Bicyclists, motorcyclists and passengers ..	100
Others .....	31