

would impress upon employers and employees alike the necessity for devising ways and means to reduce greatly, if not to wipe out completely, the many accidents that were occurring daily.

Not only do these accidents occasion immediate tragedy for the injured worker and his family, but quite frequently the resulting disability is permanent, and seriously interferes with the productive and earning capacity of the worker during the remainder of his life.

Of vast importance, too, in a time like this, when every energy is being directed toward the production of essential defense requirements for our Country, accidents that interfere with this defense production—and every accident does, to some extent—result in a corresponding loss of effectiveness in our efforts towards preparedness.

The encouraging features of such a movement as this is that in urging preventive measures, we aren't merely theorizing, or hoping. It is an established fact that intelligent attack upon the cause of accidents invariably brings its result in lessened mishaps. Experience of industry in general throughout the Country, and particular experience of certain industries within our own State, where safety possibilities long have been recognized, and safety measures applied, furnish concrete proof that you can reduce the accident toll very greatly. Furthermore, it has been established that such reduction accomplishes financial savings for both the worker and the employer, far surpassing the initial or continuing cost of safety methods that may be installed.

It is a particular pleasure for me to approve and to participate actively in such a general campaign against accidents, for we have recognized that our citizens were paying an outrageously high price for transportation in the matter of traffic accidents. More than two years ago we instituted a movement throughout the State designed to affect this important phase of the safety question, and have laid down a permanent foundation that gives promise of gratifying results.

A review of your program convinces me that there have been presented today, and will be presented tomorrow, safety messages, the application of which can benefit any industry or business of which you men are representative here tonight. I sincerely trust that the result of these conferences will mean an awakened consciousness on the part of everyone connected with production or distribution, that accidents can be stopped and that they will be stopped if the proven practices already in effect in many concerns find more general application throughout our State.

You may rest assured that, having taken the initial step in arranging this conference, the State Industrial Accident Commission, and the State Administration generally, will maintain close contact with developments along safety lines. Through its Safety Director, and the Inspectors under him, the Industrial Accident Commission will keep watch upon practices and conditions throughout our many establishments, and will be at the service of industry and business generally to help solve and correct any safety problems that may arise.

It is our hope everyone will find this 1941 State-wide Conference of such pronounced benefit, that it may become an annual affair, by means of which