

Traffic Situation: What Can We Do?

A MAGAZINE reports that "feedback signs" used in Canada and Israel post the percentage of motorists who obey speed limits within certain areas. Officials said the signs motivated other motorists to observe traffic laws.

The reasoning seems to be that motorists will read the signs and decide to join the majority in law observance. Perhaps, but what about those who don't seem to notice posted traffic signs?

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration compiles statistics about how many people disregard traffic laws and several states have had studies made about how many motorists drive through red lights, merely pause at stop signs or make improper lane changes.

Such research only leads official status to observations made daily by other drivers trying to dodge them.

The federal government continues to try to blackmail state officials into enforcing a national speed limit law by threatening to withhold road

construction funds.

Such a regulation applying to all kinds of roads is unreasonable and should never have been enacted. Most cities vary speed limits for different streets or different stretches of the same street where traffic density or special hazards exist. Similar latitude should be allowed state so local conditions could be considered. We don't need to have a "national policy" on everything.

The remarkable thing about our traffic situation is not that we have so many accidents but that the number is no greater where there seem to be more vehicles than streets and where tiny cars are cutting in and out among huge trucks.

The truck situation is likely to become even more hazardous. Twin-trailers are here and triple-trailer trucks are on the way. Congress has overruled state laws prohibiting them, claiming the power to write rules governing highways built with federal aid. So, most roads will be open to them.

Many studies have been made about how lives could be saved by

seat belts and air bags if motorists would use them. Built-in electronic devices on newer cars remind drivers of operating procedures to encourage safety.

Oklahoma and other states have inspection laws that are supposed to reveal vehicle defects that might be safety hazards. For \$5 you can have your tires looked at, windshield wiped, lights flashed and horn tooted — "inspections" you could make yourself.

Regardless of highway hazards, careless motorists, big trucks and other accident causes, the fact remains that drunken driving is involved in most highway fatalities.

Prayer for Today

IN praise of you, Lord, let us remember to offer praise to others who often long for appreciation from efforts well done. Thank you for helping us see the best in others. Amen.