

a Labor Conference were formally established to function within the framework of the National Safety Council

Labor has been represented at the various presidential and gubernatorial industrial safety conferences

Some unions have independently done extensive safety work and have published printed matter and released films which are real contributions to safety

It is the hope of the great majority of far-



FIG 1-11—Modern posters produced by the National Safety Council combine eye-appeal and an easily understood message

sighted safety professionals in both labor and management that every opportunity for co-operation will be pressed to the fullest extent consistent with practical realities

Further, management must seek the multiple causes of accidents, not only the most obvious cause of disabling injuries. Workers must believe that safe performance means proper and efficient performance—doing their jobs as best they can

## Research

Statistical data on industrial accidents have been compiled by the National Safety Council for over forty years. Analyses computed annually and published in industry rate pamphlets and *Accident Facts* have proven of utmost importance in evaluating the leading causes of accidents

Some industries through their trade associations have recorded accident rates for almost fifty years. In most instances, even the divisions of an industry can establish their positions with regard to number and types of accidents and can determine their experience in comparison with national averages

There are a large number of standards relating to safety. Continuing research has been necessary over the years to keep these standards in line with current industrial development and the development of new products and materials

Special research projects, such as those making studies of walkway surfaces and safety belts, can be and have been financed by private sources and coordinated by the National Safety Council. Since the Council is not an approval agency, results of these projects are given as a summary of findings with no attempt to set minimum standards

## Safety and the law

The early legal action in industrial safety took the form of laws to regulate and investigate. The next phase was largely concerned with workmen's compensation payments

The following years have seen a gradual growth in regulation of industry on safety matters by federal, state, and local governments. The Walsh-Healey Act, which deals with companies having supply contracts with the federal government, is an example of such regulation

In certain industries—notably mining and transportation—federal government regulation and inspection have been extensive. In some states, state regulation has been stringent

Today industry accepts almost without exception the idea of financial responsibility for work injuries. But court interpretations have broadened the workmen's compensation laws in most states so that the original purpose of the laws tends to be defeated