

1—Occupational Safety

Political problems

On the political side remains the timeworn problem of industry-government relations. The difficult task of the serious safety professional is to objectively advise his management regarding legislation and what may be considered government interference in safety matters and still, at the same time, encourage good men in public service to work to improve safety standards.

If safety people simply fight government "on principle," they will lose their objectivity and professional stature, and this will probably only heighten the pressure from other quarters for stiff and inflexible regulation.

Organizational problems

On the national scale, a wide variety of organizations are attacking specific aspects of the safety problem. The National Safety Council is, of course, the giant in the field—a strong, constructive, and non-political, non-commercial giant. It has repeatedly sought and often achieved cooperative division of

labor between itself and other organizations in the safety field.

One of the guiding principles of the Council has been that there was work enough and credit enough for all.

It remains to be seen whether the best organizational forms have been found for participation by all businesses in safety work. Safety professionals should be ready to consider new ideas and new forms.

A look to the future

The future is, as it always has been, most uncertain. Problems large and small, predictable and unpredictable, can be expected to crowd upon the safety professional.

Some of these problems will call for reapplication of established safety techniques. Others will call for radical departures and the creation of new methods and new organizational forms.

To be able to discriminate between the two situations will, perhaps, be the safety professional's greatest test.

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