

October 31st, 1910.

Mrs. Flora K. Lippitt, President,

Council Of Jewish Women,

C I T Y .

Dear Mrs. Lippitt:

I am in receipt of preamble and resolution adopted by the Council of Jewish Women in relation to the excessive speed of automobiles. A resolution substantillay similar if not precisely so, adopted by the Mothers' Congress was recently forwarded to me and presented to the last meeting of the Council and referred to the Committee on Health and Police for early action thereon.

I shall do what I can to correct the evil of which you complain.

Very truly yours,

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WHEREAS, The speed of automobiles in the City of Portland is restricted by ordinance to ten miles per hour within the fire limits (down town) and to fifteen miles per hour outside the fire limits, and it is notoriously a matter of common knowledge that these regulations are not generally observed nor enforced, and

WHEREAS, It has been brought to our attention that in traversing the City streets at such excessive rates of speed, the lives of school children playing at and in the immediate vicinity of the public school houses are in constant danger from speeding automobiles. Attention is also called to the fact that at certain hours of the day several thousand children must cross the streets surrounding the respective school houses on their way to and from school, and that small children in particular are not only physically unable to keep out of the way of reckless drivers, but quite naturally lack the mature intuition which would warn them to look for danger before stepping or running into the street, and in passing on this matter we wish to cite as an example Glencoe School on East Belmont Street between 49th and 50th Streets. This school is located on a paved street, the principal automobile highway to the eastern part of the City and County and one of the principal routes for demonstrators of the several makes of automobiles. As a consequence, automobiles pass this school almost continuously at all hours at speeds of between 15 and 40 miles per hour, and that an accident has not occurred already is due <sup>only</sup> to eternal vigilance on the part of the Principal and teachers, and while this has proven effective so far, it cannot be expected to survive by itself in the face of constantly increasing traffic of this nature.

Attention is called to the several accidents in the past on the streets resulting in the death or serious injury of children and where investigation has disclosed that the machine was moving at a moderate rate of speed and technically speaking "under control", and while passing some children playing on the walk, one child has



suddenly darted across and in front of the machine; the result, a short newspaper story - everything was done to avoid the accident, and no blame is attached to the driver, but what of the mangled little body and that ghastly grief that must knock at some ones door? It is, therefore, natural that we should consider as excessive, even a speed of 15 miles an hour past school houses where our children are exposed to a danger which can be eliminated, not be waiting until the inevitable happens, as unhappily is too often the case, but by anticipating the result and adopting effective measures to stop it, and in which automobile drivers will gladly join. Therefore, be it

RESOLVED That it is the sense of this body of representative motherhood that the ordinance regulating the speed of automobiles within the City of Portland be amended to restrict them to six miles per hour passing school houses and that as a further means of enforcing such regulation, signs of sufficient size as to be easily and readily noticed be strung across such streets approaching school houses where the traffic is heaviest calling on automobiles to slow down passing the school, and be it further

RESOLVED That a copy of this resolution be given the Honorable Mayor and Council of the City of Portland with our earnest request for legislation in the matter at once and with our assurance that knowing their ready disposition to co-operate with us, any better plan that their experienced judgment may dictate, will be acceptable to us so long as the necessary results are accomplished.

*Flora K. Lippitt Pres.*

*Helen M. Sells. Rec. Sec.*

*Council of Jewish Women.*