

Skate Board Fad Leads to Injury

Most injuries to children are caused by falls, the severity depending mostly on two factors: the speed of motion and the hardness of the surface. Until recently, falls from bicycles stood almost as the chief cause of broken bones in children. Now the fad of skate-boarding has added another important source of serious injuries.

For those who may not be familiar with them, a skate board is a piece of wood about five inches wide and perhaps 2 feet long, to the bottom of which are fastened roller skate wheels. Many youngsters make their own but they are also widely available in retail stores. These boards are used for coasting down hills and can be steered to some degree by shifting the weight of the body as one stands on the board. To this extent they resemble surf boards and owe some of their popularity to the interest of many youngsters in surfing.

UNFORTUNATELY, unlike the surfer who falls into the water, the skate-boarder falls onto hard pavement, streets and sidewalks being the most common surfaces used. Because of this hard surface and the rate of speed at which skate-boarders often hit the pavement, physicians

are seeing many nasty fractures and head injuries as a result of this new sport. Serious injuries may result, especially in cases where there is loss of control and collision with another moving vehicle. Skate-boarding requires more skill and concentration than bike riding, so approaching cars may not be noticed until too late.

Here are more safety rules which, if enforced by parents, will help reduce the hazards of this new fad:

- Driveways and other protected paved areas should be used exclusively while the youngster is acquiring skill at steering and leaving the moving board.

- During the learning period excessive speed must be avoided to prevent serious injuries during the inevitable falls.

- If streets are used, it should be only in those areas where approaching cars can be easily seen.

- No child should be allowed to use a skate board unless he is able to understand and apply these rules.

An additional word of warning is necessary for parents who may be tempted to try skate-boarding themselves. It is not as easy as it looks. A significant number of parents end up with an arm or leg in a cast after just one attempt at this hazardous fad.

Effort to Bail Out Unemployment Funds Problem Protested

Supervisor Kenneth Hahn this week sharply criticized proposals in Sacramento designed to have the taxpayers pour millions of dollars into the State Unemployment Insurance fund and bail it out of financial problems.

The Board of Supervisors has urged Los Angeles County Assemblymen and State Senator Thomas Rees to oppose mandatory unemployment insurance for public employes.

HAHN SAID efforts are being made to require unemployment insurance for every city, county, and state employe and that the proposals would cost taxpayers more than \$5.5 million per year just for civil service employes of Los Angeles County.

"Who's ever heard of a government employe being

laid off for unemployment reasons since 1940," Hahn said.

"Yet some bureaucrats in Sacramento want the County to pay 3 per cent of salary payments under \$3,800 per employe to the Unemployment Insurance fund, even though there is little or no chance of a civil service employe ever having need to collect that insurance."

HAHN NOTED the State Unemployment Insurance fund is "barely breaking even and could be thrown into deficit financing by a minor recession."

The way to solve this problem, Hahn stressed, is not to throw the burden to the taxpayer, who pays the civil service employe's salary, but to seek new reforms and stricter administration in the Unemployment Insurance program.

Legislators 'Panic' Over Reapportionment Problems

California legislators have shown "a good deal of panic," offering some interesting and some ludicrous possibilities, the face of the federal court order for reapportionment of the state Senate's 40 seats by July 1.

This appraisal, including the opinion that it is unfortunate that the deadline allows little time for "imaginative solutions," came in a

Merkley Elected To Chamber Post

Glenn C. Merkley of the National Supply Division of Armco Steel Corp. has been appointed to the Torrance Chamber of Commerce board of directors to serve the unexpired term of William H. Becker who has moved to Santa Monica. It was announced this week by Chamber President Arthur L. Rectes.

Dinner Stated For Former City Official

An appreciation dinner will be held in honor of Joseph P. Leach, assistant city manager of Redondo Beach for nine years, Feb. 11 at the Posh Horse Restaurant at 3 p.m. The Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce and Coordinating Council are sponsors. Leach has accepted the post of city administrator of Rolling Hills Estates.

University of California Extension lecture at Riverside by Dr. Gordon Baker of the UC faculty at Santa Barbara.

THE POLITICAL scientist suggested several possible solutions in his talk before a "Government in Action" seminar of civic leaders from Riverside and San Bernardino, but felt there may not be time enough to work them out. He regretted the lack of time for "sophisticated thinking," when changes must be as drastic as they will be in California.

One proposed solution would be the expansion of the legislature by the addition of more districts and more seats, a move which would enable more incumbents to remain in office.

ANOTHER possibility, Baker pointed out, is the establishment of "multi-member" districts which would elect more than one representative to the legislature. Minorities would stand a better chance to elect a spokesman than they do in single-member districts.

A system of cumulative voting in which each district elects several representatives and each voter has several votes which could be cast for a single candidate would also give minorities representation and "nurture the two-party system," he said.

Baker also suggested apportioning most legislative seats according to population, reserving a few to be filled by regional elections at large. This method might accommodate some of the land duck incumbents who would otherwise be headed for oblivion," he said.



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