



P R E S S R E L E A S E

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TIME WINNIPEG September 19/61 195

Numerous enquiries in regard to speed limits in school zones have been received in my office. Some of the questions asked are as follows:-

1. The 15 mile per hour limit applies 24 hours a day, seven days a week.[?]
2. The 15 mile per hour limit applies 24 hours a day Monday thru Friday only.[?]
3. The 15 mile per hour limit applies 30 minutes before the start and 30 minutes after the close of school 8.30 to 4.30.[?]
4. The 15 mile per hour limit applies when the school or school yard is occupied with children, day or night.[?]

With reference to the requirements of the Highway Traffic Act relating to the driving of motor vehicles in the vicinity of school grounds, the information is as follows:-

Section 70-3 Sub-section 1 of the Highway Traffic Act provides that "drive carelessly" or driving carelessly" means to drive or driving a vehicle on a highway without due care and attention or without reasonable consideration for other persons using the highway.

Section 70-3 Sub-section 5 provides that a person shall be deemed to be driving carelessly when he is driving a vehicle upon a highway at a rate of speed greater than fifteen miles per hour while passing a school building during school recess, or within fifteen minutes before the opening of morning or afternoon school, or within fifteen minutes after the closing of morning or afternoon school or while the grounds thereof are in use by the children, if the existence of the school building is indicated by road signs.

Section 70-3 Sub-section 6 provides that a person shall be deemed to be driving carelessly if he overtakes and passes another vehicle while it is passing a school or playground and the existence of which at that place is indicated by road signs.

In effect drivers are expected to observe a maximum speed of fifteen miles per hour and less if circumstances require when children are going into and leaving school and when they are using the playground. The presence of children in the area of the school should be a warning to the motorist as he approaches the school and the fifteen minutes before and after the opening and closing of school is actually not a confusing provision but rather emphasizes the fact that care must be taken for the safety of children in the area.

If the school ground is not occupied by children and children are not using crosswalks or in the area of the school, which would require the motorist to yield right-of-way on a crosswalk, then a motorist may proceed through the area at a maximum speed of thirty miles per hour and consistent with other conditions."