

We understand that the General Committee of the Operating - Transportation Division of the Association of American Railroads will consider these problems as part of their agenda at their regular meeting on July 9, 1970. The Board hopes that a positive program for prompt corrective action will result from this meeting. The long-term correction of this explosion and rocketing tendency depends on research and development, including full-scale testing such as the Board recommended in its report of the Laurel accident. We recommend to the Association of American Railroads and to all railroads, that the following interim and long range actions be considered:

- R-70-1 1. Appropriate control of the speeds of trains containing DOT Specifications 112A and 114A tank cars exceeding 25,000 gallons when such cars transport liquefied flammable gases. Southern Railway limited speeds to 15 miles per hour through towns after the Laurel accident.
- R-70-2 2. When practicable, cars of DOT Specifications 112A and 114A exceeding 25,000 gallons capacity carrying flammable liquefied gases, should be separated by cars containing commodities not regulated under 49 CFR 171-179, inclusive, or noncombustible commodities regulated under 49 CFR 171-179, inclusive.
- R-70-3 3. As feasible, reduce the use of the above type cars in transporting liquefied flammable gases.
- R-70-4 4. Steps be taken to advise local firefighters of the hazards when they are combatting fires in the vicinity of burning tank cars containing liquefied flammable gases and of the need for the evacuation of persons.
- R-70-5 5. Modification of DOT Specifications 112A and 114A for tank cars exceeding 25,000-gallon capacity so that they can safely carry liquefied flammable gases.

and the American Railway Engineering Association, conduct studies, including tests, to determine desirable combinations of track and equipment components required to act as a system to keep derailed cars upon and in line with the track structure."

BY THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD:

/s/ JOHN H. REED
Chairman

/s/ OSCAR M. LAUREL
Member

/s/ FRANCIS H. McADAMS
Member

/s/ LOUIS M. THAYER
Member

Isabel A. Burgess, Member, was absent, not voting.

February 24, 1971