

in the Federal-Aid Highway system; and in (e), that the Secretary establish a program designed to train appropriate employees of the Federal government and of State governments to carry out such inspections.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

While issuance of final recommendations must be deferred until completion of the additional programs now in progress, the following recommendations are made:

(1) The law quoted in Conclusion 25 above concerns only those bridges in the Federal-Aid system, whereas the guide pertains to those in other systems as well. In any case, there are approximately 330,000 bridges and related structures owned entirely by State, county or city authorities, or by private concerns. It is recommended therefore that the Department of Transportation make available the product of the guide and the law to the latter owners also, for their use in the improvement of all bridges in the country.

(2) That the Secretary of Transportation forward copies of this report to the special committee inquiring into the safety of highway and railroad bridges in the United States. It is expected that the facts developed during this investigation with respect to the conduct of bridge inspections and maintenance in the

State of West Virginia will be of assistance to the special committee in making an assessment of bridge inspection and maintenance practices throughout the United States.

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