

# COURT TO DECIDE SPEEDING CASES ON OWN MERITS

## Sane Presentation of Facts Better Than Crusade of Punishment, Judge Avers.

"Every case of speeding or reckless driving will be decided in municipal court on its own merits, but recklessness of automobile drivers that endangers the lives of others should be and is being severely punished," Judge Frank H. Cutting said in discussing causes and penalties for violations of the speeding ordinance.

Three cases charging reckless driving are now pending in police court. The accidents included a fractured skull, collar bone and legs of a 12-year-old girl, a man's leg so badly smashed that it required amputation, and injuries to one woman when she was wheeling her baby in a carriage on the sidewalk.

### Injured Affected Most.

"Sane and thoughtful presentation of the facts about reckless driving will have more effect in keeping automobile accidents at a minimum than any crusade of punishment that I might announce for offenders," Judge Cutting said. "The accident falls hardest on the injured person who must pay hospital and doctor bills.

"This situation cannot be alleviated by fining the one to blame or sentencing him to the workfarm. Factors, such as imperfect brakes and steering apparatus, often enter into account. But everyone driving an auto owes it to his fellowmen to observe the caution of 10 miles an hour in the business section, 15 miles an hour in the residence section, and not more than 25 miles in the country. Any faster rate than that is reckless driving."

### Penalties Vary.

The sentences imposed on alleged offenders in the half hundred cases of speeding and reckless driving in the municipal court since March 19 vary from fines of \$5, \$10, \$15 and \$100 to workfarm sentences of 30 to 60 days. Many autoists forfeited the \$15 bail required when arraigned rather than appear to answer the charges of recklessness. A few were given suspended sentences.

The heaviest sentence imposed by Judge Cutting was on July 25, when he fined Lawrence E. Law \$100, with the alternative of 60 days in jail. Law was charged with driving an auto while intoxicated. He paid the fine. Cases now pending are those of Wallace R. Johnson, Harry Schapery, Russell Briggs and Paul A. Erickson. Schapery is out on \$100 bail to await a hearing. Johnson has been found guilty, and Judge Cutting is taking two weeks to consider the sentence. The cases of Briggs and Erickson are still pending.