

MINUTES OF SAFETY COUNCIL MEETING:

1. The Master held a meeting of the Safety Council in his office at 1300 this date and the following members were present:

CAPT. JOHN HARRINGTON, Master; Mr. W. H. Cunningham, First Officer; Mr. E. Quinn, Chief Engineer; Mr. L. P. Laurent, Chief Steward; Mr. L. C. McHugh, Purser (Recorder); LCDR W. B. Cobb, Jr. USN (COMILDEPT) and LT S. R. EDWARDS, MC, USN (Medical Officer).

2. The meeting was opened with the reading of the minutes of the last Safety Council Meeting, followed by a reading and discussion of the departmental safety meeting minutes held during the past month. It was found that all deficiencies reported therein were minor and can be corrected by the ship.

3. The Master stated he was concerned about the number of accidents during this voyage, especially those involving lost time. A general discussion followed. It was the consensus of opinion of all present that the increase in the number of accidents lately is due to the large number of new hires, who, in spite of the best indoctrination given them are far from seasoned seamen and are prone to slip on ladders, bump their heads, allow objects to drop on their feet, and in general do things which the seasoned seamen unconsciously avoid. None of the accidents this voyage could be traced to a hazard in the ship that can be corrected--they were all due to errors and poor judgment on the part of the injured crewmen.

4. The Master directed all present to continue to instruct the crew in safe practices, especially now that we are about to undergo a yard period. He directed that hard hats be worn wherever appropriate, and especially in the engine spaces. The First Officer was directed to make clear to the gangway watch that any crewman returning from liberty apparently under the influence of liquor must be safely escorted to his quarters to prevent possible injury.

5. A general discussion of the safety hazards usually encountered in the shipyard was held. The Master directed that the side ports are never to be opened without express permission from the mate on watch.

6. There have been 20 accidents to passengers and 9 to crewmen since date of last Safety Council Meeting. Fortunately all except a few were minor. The Master directed that all department heads continue to be on the alert for unsafe conditions and practices and to encourage their supervising subordinates to do likewise. Indoctrination must commence as soon as a new man reports aboard--it cannot be postponed and done on a group basis.

7. The meeting adjourned at 1330.


JOHN HARRINGTON

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