

From Bernard G. Priestley
Publicity Director
Boston Chamber of Commerce

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STATEMENT ON COCOANUT GROVE TRAGEDY

N. F. P. A.
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To Noted



Henry J. Nichols, president of the Boston Chamber of Commerce, in a statement issued last night concerning the Cocoanut Grove holocaust pledged the Chamber to join others in taking immediate steps to obtain whatever legislation and regulations may be necessary to prevent as far as is humanly possible any repetition of such a tragedy.

The statement follows:

"The frightful tragedy which recently stunned the citizens of this community has led to several official investigations. The evidence may or may not result in fixing blame on private individuals, public officials or their agents. The Boston Chamber of Commerce, however, is not so much concerned with questions of blame for what already has happened as it is in making sure that adequate statutes or ordinances, effectively and impartially enforced, will, so far as humanly possible, prevent a repetition of such a holocaust.

"If our laws and ordinances are inadequate, they should be remedied promptly. The Boston Chamber of Commerce pledges itself to join with others in a study of existing conditions and to

make sure that measures are presented to the appropriate legislative bodies designed to give the public the protection that it has a right to expect.

"Aside from questions of exits, construction, decorations, safety devices, etc., there well may be other matters requiring attention. The scores of parked cars in the neighborhood of the fire are said to have contributed to the disaster by delaying the rescuers and the ambulances, if not the actual fighting of the fire. Perhaps the problem of night parking, therefore, should be re-studied.

"The Chamber urges that there be no unreasonable or unnecessary delay in taking steps which will clarify existing regulations and fix responsibility for their enforcement."