

(LIVE ON)

The current snow removal, caused by the past weekend's severe

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snow storm and blizzard conditions--has been rougher for the State Highway Department to

(TAKE FILM)

handle than the heavy snow of 1960. So says

H. C. Weeks, Salem District Equipment ~~Sup~~

Supervisor. Weeks says the combination of

heavy snow, blizzard-like wind and bitter cold

made this year's job more difficult. A large

piece of snow removal--known as a "Sno-Go"--

had its front bracket cracked by hard layers of

ice, snow and sleet on Bent Mountain, and is

in the local shop for repairs. Weeks says weather

conditions were so severe that highway workers

could stay outside their trucks for only about 3

minutes at a time recently, while working on Bent

Mountain. All state-owned highway equipment

capable of moving snow, and all available private

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equipment that could be leased has been brought into action clearing and scraping highways in the 16 county Salem District. Maintenance crews, backing up the men on the road, repaired larger machines on the highway, and others at the shop, working 18 hours--or longer--a day, in many cases. The Highway Department--with fingers crossed--looks forward to at least a long break between snowfalls, if not an end to snowing for the winter.

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wlm.