

With the approval of the Boston Rural District Council and the Ministry of Transport, each of the 500 thirty-foot high tubular steel lighting columns carrying 400-watt mercury lamps have been equipped with Sigma automatic dusk-to-dawn switch control units.

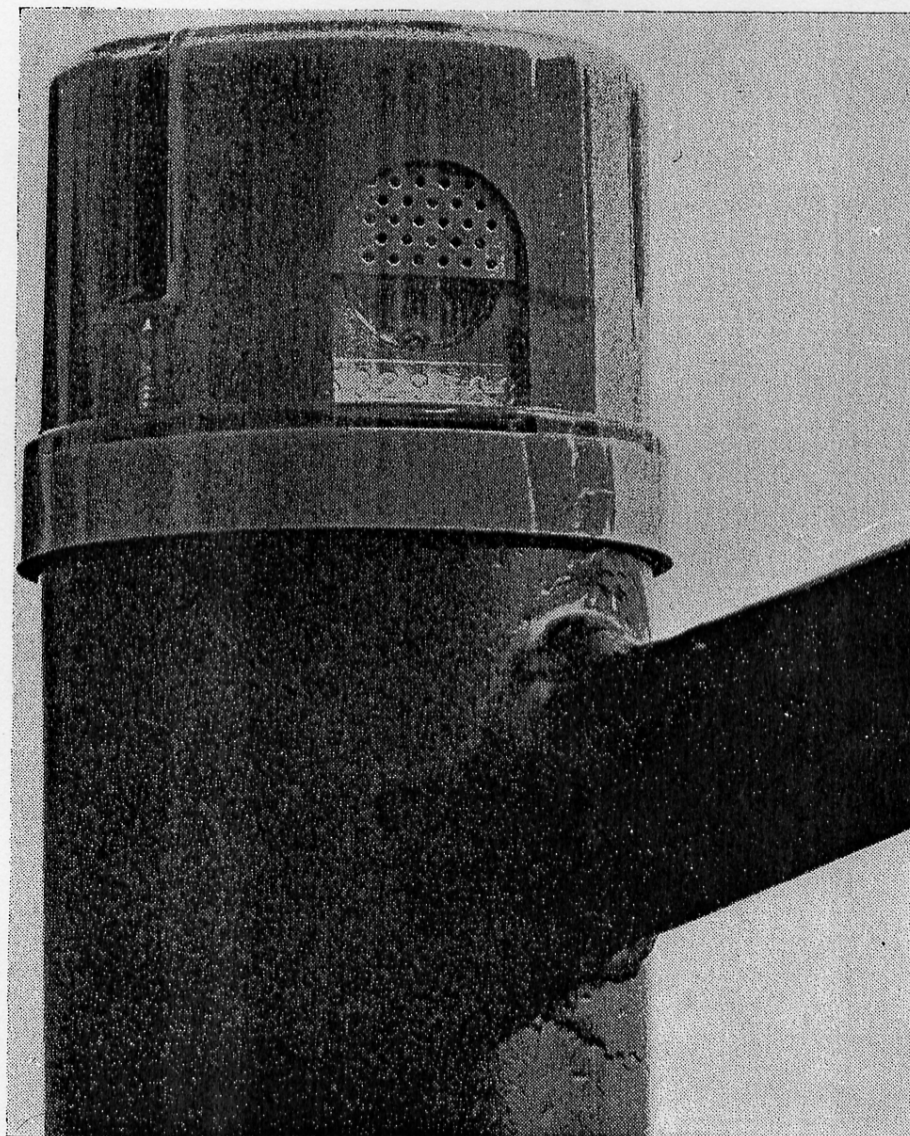
These columns—made and installed by Abacus Municipal Ltd., the Sutton-in-Ashfield, Notts., street lighting and municipal equipment engineers—have been erected along the Boston section of the busy A17 King's Lynn to Newark road.

The switch-control unit, manufactured in the U.S.A. by Sigma Instruments Inc. and distributed throughout the British Isles exclusively by Abacus Municipal Ltd—is housed in a small weatherproof case which is positioned discreetly at the apex of each column. The unit employs a photo-electric cell as a "magic eye" for switching on and off the lamp at the approach of dusk or dawn.

Economy of operation is assured because a Sigma tubeless photo-electrically controlled lamp will **turn-off** earlier on a bright morning and **turn-on** later in the evening. A greater safety margin for both motor vehicle driver and pedestrian is achieved since the lamp will stay on longer on dark mornings and switch on earlier on dark evenings. Thus, throughout the whole year true dusk-to-dawn lighting is distributed more accurately than by the mechanical time-switch method.

Maintenance costs are minimised by the automatic re-set of the Sigma control in the event of circuit failure.

The Boston road-lighting scheme is the first major installation in this country of the photo-electric dusk-to-dawn switch control system.



The Sigma solar switch control unit mounted in position on top of a street lighting column. The unit—which employs a photo-electric cell for switching on and off the lamp at the approach of dusk or dawn—has an outside diameter of  $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. and its height is about the same.