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## FIRE SAFETY

*Maryland's long tradition of reliance upon well-trained volunteer fire departments had the full support of Governor Tawes, himself a former volunteer fireman. The Governor's interest in fire fighting and fire prevention was genuine, extending back to the days of his youth when he joined the Crisfield Volunteer Fire Company, an affiliation he maintained throughout his public career. He was a past president of the Maryland State Fireman's Association, a distinction he valued as one of the high points of his life in the public service.*

*As Governor, he took pride in the fact that Maryland's fire safety record was reflected in an over-all reduction in fire insurance rates. It was his contention that, since nearly all fires are man-made, most of them could be prevented and he undertook an extensive program of public education toward that goal. He was the first Maryland Governor to call an annual conference on fire prevention, bringing together leading authorities on the subject in an attempt to find new ways of curbing this threat to the public safety. Approximately one-third of a million dollars was made available in 1961 to expand the training facilities of the Fire Extension Department at the University of Maryland, where some 2,000 volunteer firemen annually received training in the latest fire fighting techniques.*

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### ADDRESS, FIRE INSTRUCTORS CONFERENCE MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

February 26, 1959

The nature of the title of this talk—"We Have Come A Long Way"—is double-barreled in that it allows discussion that is both general and specific.

Speaking generally of the cause of fire safety and fire-loss reduction, a look at the program of this conference shows unmistakably that we have indeed come a long way as a nation. This is a healthy sign because the economic drain of fires on the resources of this America we all love so well is cause for the concern and concentrated attention of everyone. It is of special concern to those of us here who are to be regarded as watchdogs of the public's interest in fire safety.