

The Department of Tidewater Fisheries, which was reconstituted with the help and advice of this Assembly two years ago, has embarked upon a bold and progressive program to replenish oysters in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, including the discovery and use of dead reef oyster shells for planting. New legislation, sponsored by this Administration, will be offered during this session to aid the Department in its effort. I hope fervently that the downward trend in oyster production can be reversed during my tenure in the office of Governor. I sincerely urge you to support these measures.

I am able to report to you that the State Roads Commission, likewise reorganized in 1959, is making noteworthy progress toward its goal of giving the State a continuous system of major roads within five years. During the past year, it pushed ahead the target date for completion of the Baltimore Beltway, with opening date set for mid-summer 1962. On the Eastern Shore, dualization of U.S. Route 50 is progressing, and the remaining portions of the Salisbury Thruway will be completed by December of this year. In Western Maryland, construction is under way on important segments of the dualization of Route 40, and the Commission has advanced the deadline for advertising of additional parts of Interstate 81. In the Washington suburban area, construction has begun on long-neglected radial routes leading into the city, and the opening of the completed Washington-Annapolis Expressway is scheduled for this year.

In 1961, the Commission has stepped up its program, scheduling construction of 120 miles of new highway. On the basis of what it has accomplished since reorganization, I am confident that the Commission will fulfill its pledge to give Maryland a first-class highway system in the shortest time possible.

Recognizing the importance of public safety, at the outset of my Administration I appointed an Administrative Assistant on my staff charged with liaison with all agencies in the State of Maryland concerned with public safety. In the field of traffic safety this Administration has taken certain steps which should result in lowering the toll of traffic deaths and promote traffic safety in the State. The point system was enacted into law in the 1959 session of the General Assembly with appropriate amendments in the 1960 session and became operative on January 1 of this new year.

I am recommending to you the enactment of legislation which will place the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles under classified service of the State. I believe that this is a logical, complementary step along with the point system. Another corollary physical improvement which