

group of men, within the structure of our State government, who have the responsibility of protecting the life, property and welfare of the citizens of our great State.

The State Police organization was first formed in 1921 under the auspices of the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles. It wasn't until 1935 that this organization was separated from the Department of Motor Vehicles and made into a separate department of State government. At that time, there were 75 uniformed members and administrators within the organization. Today, this force has grown to an authorized strength of 551 uniformed troopers and administrators. In line with this growth of manpower and equipment, the basic responsibilities and police activities have grown proportionately. There is a tremendous job to be done, and you should be proud that you will become a part of it.

My interest in highway traffic safety has been expressed many times during my campaign for Governor and the recent legislative session. I placed the full authority of my office behind safety legislation. With the cooperation of the Legislature, we were able to pass such important laws as a chemical test for intoxication statute and a point system. They should go far in combatting this problem. I am in complete accord with the Motor Vehicle Committee of the Legislature, other State agencies and civic groups who are putting forth maximum effort in this field.

Traffic safety is made up of three basic fundamentals — enforcement, engineering and education. No one, or two, can function without the aid and complete cooperation of the others. *Enforcement*, which includes the initial contact by the police; the appearance of the defendant in court; and the final disposition of the case, is the most effective deterrent to motor vehicle violations and accidents.

The appearance of a State Trooper on the highway reminds the potential violator of swift action — if it is warranted — and it also assures the general traveling public that the highway they are using is being patrolled for their protection.

Speed is, and has been, the greatest contributing factor to accidents for many years. With excessive speed, the reaction time of the operator is too slow to overcome the normal emergencies which occur in our every day driving. Speed is directly responsible for the seriousness of accidents when they do occur. The continued growth of expressway construction constantly multiplies the mileage of high-