

It is our hope that this "Law Day USA" may serve to marshal public opinion in support of a respect for and obedience to our laws.

It is well for all of us to remember that responsibilities go with rights — that every person owes service to his government in return for the benefits he derives from that government. In the final analysis the rights of all of us depends on our devotion to the institutions and principles which established those rights.

We must remember today that all of us are engaged in a mighty struggle to maintain our system and to insure respect and support for it among our fellow Americans.

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ADDRESS, MARYLAND STATE POLICE GRADUATION  
PIKESVILLE — June 15, 1961

One of the most effective morale builders in any military organization, our semi-military organization such as this, is what is called "pride in outfit."

You young men who are graduating in this forty-sixth recruit class have every reason to be proud of the "outfit" you have joined, for the Maryland State Police has achieved wide renown for its competence as a law-enforcement agency. The high standards it has set for its operations you will be required to maintain. The diplomas which are being awarded you here today are evidence of your capacity to meet these standards.

It is no easy occupation that you have chosen. It requires on your part courage, bravery, skill, intelligence and hard work. But it is an honorable occupation, bearing with it the prestige of the sovereign State which you represent.

It is also a responsible occupation, it being your duty to keep the peace of the community and assure the faithful observance of the laws enacted for the welfare of the people.

With the training you have received here, it is not necessary for me to dwell upon the tremendous importance of law enforcement in our society. It is well to remind ourselves, however, that a law does not become effective when passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor. It becomes the law of the land when you, doing your duty as law-enforcement officers, bring it to full prosecution in the courts.