

ADDRESS, MARYLAND STATE POLICE GRADUATION

PIKESVILLE

June 15, 1962

It is always a delight to stand in these pleasant surroundings and welcome another class of graduates of our State Police Academy to full membership in the Maryland State Police.

I offer my sincere congratulations to all of you who are receiving diplomas in this 48th graduating class of the Academy. In your work as students, you have demonstrated your fitness to serve in one of the finest police departments in the country. Along with my congratulations, I extend my warm best wishes to each of you for success and enjoyment in your careers as law-enforcement officers. You have **begun your careers on a solid foundation—with adequate preparation and training for the arduous, exacting work you will have as agents of the government responsible for keeping the peace and enforcing the laws.**

The Maryland State Police is an agency of State government in **which all Marylanders take great pride. It is efficient, alert, aggressive and dedicated to duty.** Its individual members are courteous, correct, proficient and devoted to their jobs. The splendid reputation the Department has attained is attributable to many factors, but a main reason is the emphasis our State Police places upon training and education. And it is not just a matter of the instruction of recruits, such as you have experienced here during the past six months. It is the continuous training of personnel in all ranks.

The idea that anybody can be a policeman is as obsolete as the ox cart. In our day to be a good policeman requires not only native intelligence, but also specialized training in the techniques of policing and a high degree of knowledge in the broad area of law enforcement. No police department can hope to measure up to the high standards of modern law-enforcement practices unless it carries on a program of continuous upgrading of personnel through instruction. The State Police has not only concerned itself with the continuous training of its own personnel, but has extended the educational facilities it has developed over many years to other jurisdictions in the State.

I am told that during the past two years more than 350 men from other police organizations in Maryland have been enrolled in classes here at this Police Academy for basic training, advanced training