

ADDRESS, GOVERNOR'S SAFETY-HEALTH CONFERENCE  
BALTIMORE

September 23, 1960

This meeting today marks the second occasion that I, in my official capacity as sponsor of the Governor's Safety-Health Conference, have been afforded the pleasure and privilege of speaking to you . . . .

A year ago when I spoke to this group, I attempted to outline the problem we face here in Maryland to provide a greater degree of safety for the people of the State. I cited some of the activities which were taking place—some of the plans we have—in traffic safety, fire prevention and fire protection and safety for working men and working women on their jobs. I wish it were possible for me to report to you this evening that great strides of progress had been made since we last met here a year ago. I sincerely regret that I cannot make such a report. Highway accidents continue to take a heavy toll in deaths and injuries. Too many people continue to perish and too much property continues to be destroyed by fires in our State. The problem of industrial accidents has not been completely solved.

This, as we all know, is not a problem peculiar to Maryland. The same pattern exists throughout the country, and throughout the world, for that matter, where comparable conditions exist. The National Safety Council, in its 1960 edition of "Accident Facts," points out that in 1959 there was a total of 91,000 accidental deaths recorded throughout the United States. This is a startling figure. This is an appalling picture.

Unfortunately, most of us do not respond to barren figures and statistics such as these. All of us have known cases in which a loved one, a friend or an acquaintance has met an untimely death by accident. Fortunately for most of us, however, these are rare occasions.

But let us examine that figure, 91,000, more closely in an effort to see what it represents. These accidental deaths total more than the population of the cities and towns of Aberdeen, Annapolis, Bel Air, Cambridge, Frederick, Salisbury and Westminster all put together. Let us all, for a moment then, consider these 91,000 accidental deaths in that light.

The same publication of the National Safety Council reports a total of 934,000 accidental deaths during the ten-year period 1950-1959. This approximates the entire population figure for the City of Baltimore.

Again, the National Safety Council reports a total of 9,200,000 dis-