

abling injuries occurring during the year 1959. This represents a figure of more than three times the population of the entire State of Maryland.

As I have said, it is regrettable to be unable to report that substantial progress has been made in the reduction of accidental deaths and injuries in our State. But as a result of that, are we to fold our hands in despair and say to ourselves: "What's the use of wrestling with a problem that appears to be hopelessly insoluble?" No indeed we must not. Who knows what the figures might be if we relaxed our efforts to prevent highway accidents, fires and industrial mishaps? We must continue to employ all the resources available to protect the lives of the men, women and children of our State. We must step up our programs of engineering, education and enforcement to the end that the people may feel safer in travel, in their homes and on their jobs. As individuals, we must become sensitive to the shocking figures we read almost daily of slaughter on the highways, drownings, deaths and injuries from a great variety of accidents. We must, as individuals, accept our own responsibility to remedy this condition.

On the level of state government, my Administration has begun with a modest program of traffic safety. It is a program, however, which I believe if properly administered, and strengthened and expanded in needed areas, will be effective.

I am informed that the chemical-test for suspected drunken drivers is proving itself to be an effective measure. We have tightened our restrictions on the licensing of drivers. A point system for driver's licenses, already on the statute books, will go into effect as soon as some administrative problems can be ironed out. A special committee of the Legislative Council has continued its studies of other legislation to improve safety on our highways. It is my hope, and my belief, that it will have a good program to offer for the forthcoming session of the General Assembly

It is my sincere conviction that the prevention of accidents that are responsible for the lives that are lost and the bodies that are maimed is one of the greatest challenges of our time. As Governor of the State, I am aware of my obligations in this matter. With the assistance of the General Assembly and others, I will continue my efforts to improve safety conditions in our state.

With the help of such groups and individuals as are assembled here at this conference, we who have resolved to make Maryland a safe and healthy state will, I am sure, meet this challenge. Once again, on behalf of all the people of Maryland, let me thank all of you for the time, the effort and the talent you have offered to such a worthy cause.