

I ordered the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to carry on with the very strictest enforcement of the point system and procedures for the suspension and revocation of the licenses of offending motorists. I attempted to emphasize to the trial magistrates of the State the urgent necessity for consistent and uniform determination of cases involving traffic offenses. And I pleaded for the continued cooperation of the press, the radio and television stations, the many private and public agencies and organizations in our efforts to promote traffic safety through the medium of education.

I can only hope—I cannot guarantee—that these measures will be successful. I issued them, believing that the safety of citizens—in their homes, on the job, at play, in travel, wherever they may be—is a primary responsibility of government—believing that the safety of the people is the supreme law of the land.

I have a strong conviction that the problem of safety could be licked if somehow we could convey the idea to everyone that he has a personal responsibility for the safety of his own life and that of his fellow-man. It is such a simple truism, and yet it is a point that is hard to make stick in the minds of too many people.

We cannot, in my opinion, over-emphasize the importance of individual responsibility for accidents in our overall program of traffic safety. The prevention of accidents begins with the individual exercising his instinct for survival. No sane person—and most of us are sane, of course—deliberately exposes himself to useless danger. We, therefore, begin our efforts for community safety by practicing personal safety. If everyone drives his car in such a way as to protect his own life, no one is going to get hurt.

What a simple proposition! It is a pity that it cannot be understood by all.

I am sure that all of you here are conscious of your responsibility for your own safety and health and for the safety and health of those around you. Your presence at this conference is evidence enough of that. Let me encourage you to continue in your effort to spread the word of safety throughout our great State.

To all of you who have come here to give so generously of your time, your talent and your effort, I offer my most sincere thanks and appreciation. With your continued assistance, I am confident that we will succeed in making Maryland a safer and more healthful State.