

I am most grateful to you for allowing me to present my views, and I know that whatever results come from your deliberations, my own State of Maryland will be honored and proud to cooperate in any way.

ADDRESS, MARYLAND HIGHWAY CONTRACTORS
ASSOCIATION

BALTIMORE

February 13, 1961

I want to thank Mr. Leroy Kern and Mr. Bill Hardy and the members of the Maryland Highway Contractors Association for asking me to be with you for this very fine gathering today. I like to look upon the State Roads Commission and the highway contractors of this State as members of a joint venture, in the exciting and demanding job of helping to give Maryland a first class transportation system.

You gentlemen, and the members and staff of the State Roads Commission are engaged in an exciting and demanding job. It is a job that I believe will fill two important functions. First, a strong highway system will provide for the safe and efficient movement of people and goods in our State. Second, it will serve to boost the economy of our State. I think all of us here are acutely aware of the first point. There is not need for me to remind you gentlemen of the built-in safety inherent in our modern highways. I don't have to remind you that death rates on our expressway facilities are much lower than on older type highways. This Administration has dedicated itself to highway safety, and I applaud the work of the engineers and contractors who build roads which, because of their design and construction, will save lives.

As to the efficient movement of people and goods, I would have this to say. In these days, motorists and truckers do not measure the length of their trip by miles as much as they do by minutes. The average commuter, for example, when asked how far he lives from his job, usually says 30 minutes or 40 minutes rather than five miles or six miles. The shipper does not ask how far it is from manufacturing plant to market place, but rather how fast can he deliver his product to the shelves. The highway user, whether he be driving an automobile or operating a truck, has little patience with bumper-to-bumper traffic. You gentlemen are aware of the great contribution