

TRAFFIC SAFETY

The steady rise in deaths and injuries occurring on our highways has been one of the greatest disappointments I have experienced as the Governor of this State. We must continue to find ways to strengthen our overall effort to promote highway safety. Improvement of our road system must continue. Law enforcement agencies must seek more effective ways to carry out their responsibility for highway traffic supervision. The influence of the traffic courts must be strengthened. I believe that stiffer penalties should be imposed for violations. Standards for the registration of vehicles and the licensing of drivers must be kept high. We must continue to explore the medical aspects of the problem and establish guidelines for the elimination of those drivers who are unable to cope with today's traffic. There must be a continuing effort to improve our driver education programs. Finally, I think the time has come for action in the establishment of a self-supporting system of motor vehicle inspection in the State. I know this issue is controversial and complicated, but it is my hope that at his session you will give serious consideration to the subject and that, if at all possible, a satisfactory system of inspection will be produced.

OTHER LEGISLATION

In an age of change, such as we live in today, the structure of government requires continuing revision and alteration. Great strides have been made in this area during the past six years in the reorganization of many departments and the creation of new ones to give the people a more efficient and more effective government. But new conditions have arisen and more change is in order.

The Legislative Council is recommending certain reforms in our election laws, principally among them a measure to place further limitations upon the amount of money that may be spent in an election campaign. The people of this State — and the people of the nation for that matter — quite understandably have become alarmed by the high cost of running for public office. They fear that unless the trend is stopped only the rich will be able to afford an election campaign. I believe that legislation, such as is proposed by the Legislative Council, will do much to restore the faith of the people in the elective processes and in their democratic government. The highest court of our country has decreed that the equality of citizens in our democracy demands that they be given substantially the same voice