

ment and I am sure that you will share the esprit de corps that these men now feel.

Your acceptance of your diploma today signifies that you understand the challenges of your profession, that you respect and promise to uphold the traditions of the Maryland State Police and that you are prepared to shoulder the great responsibilities that are being conferred upon you. As guardians of the peace and protectors of the citizens, you will have authority that must be exercised with restraint and with respect for individual rights. We are asking you today to go forth and uphold the laws of Maryland. We are asking you to do this with courtesy, but not without courage, with tact but not without tenacity, with pride but not with prejudice.

In a very true sense, the task that faces you in the future will be more difficult than that which faced your predecessors. In many cases you may be faced with situations which involve citizens who are not habitual criminals, who do have a high regard for the law but who feel that it is necessary to dramatize their opposition to a particular law through civil disobedience. In coping with such situations, you will be compelled to call upon the training that you have received here and I am confident that you will not be found wanting.

Many of you, of course, will specialize in various fields of law enforcement but the majority of you here today will be required to exercise your talents in seeking to reduce the death toll on Maryland highways. This is no easy task and it is one that has concerned me since my election as chief executive of this State. The magnitude of the problem you face can be better understood by pointing out that the reason this class is so large is because the State must make 35 troopers available for highway patrol duty on the newly opened Northeast Expressway. The death toll on our highways has soared above 500 and the only effective solution that I can see rests with you. The weekly reports I receive from Colonel Jarman have convinced me that our two biggest enemies on Maryland highways are liquor and excessive speed. If you gentlemen here today will dedicate yourselves to the elimination of these two factors, you will have performed an invaluable service to this State and its citizens. I can assure you that in this endeavor you will receive my wholehearted cooperation.

There is no other agency in this State of which I am more proud than the State Police. Quite frequently, I receive letters from people who live in distant states and even foreign countries who have encountered difficulty in Maryland and who were subsequently assisted by a State