

it is only fair to warn you that there are probably as many different views of this problem, and the means of solving it, as there are people. In browsing through a newspaper the other day, I found this "view," for example, expressed by a member of the legislature of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The only way to protect the lives of the innocent people who travel on the highways, he said, is to remove therefrom the "jackasses, nincompoops, drunks, and fools." He had a good point, I think. Aside from the drunks perhaps, it is a little bit difficult to determine who fits into his categories. But if they could be identified clearly, and removed from the highways—the jackasses, the nincompoops, the drunks and the fools—there is little doubt that a great step forward would be made in protecting the innocent who travel on our roads.

The incidence of motor vehicle accidents, with the heavy toll they take in human lives, in maimings and in the destruction of property, undoubtedly is one of the most serious of the domestic problems we face in this country today. The sad and frustrating part of it is that not only does there appear to be no immediate solution to the problem, but that there is every indication that it is becoming more acute with every day that passes. We are indeed a nation on rubber-tired wheels—a people which, both through necessity and inclination, spends more and more of its time in automobiles.

The increase in the number of automobiles, and in the number of miles they travel, has been nothing short of phenomenal in this country, especially since the end of World War II. In Maryland, for example, there were registered 1,290,428 motor vehicles last year. I am told that by a conservative estimate there will be approximately 1,355,000 this year. To get a fair picture of what is happening, compare these registration figures with the figure of 1,226,427 of 1961 and 794,635 for ten years ago.

Only a few years ago, it was unusual for an average family to possess more than one automobile. Now it is a very common thing. And it is not an unusual thing, as we all know very well, for a single family to possess three or four cars. Incidentally, I noted with a great deal of interest the other day that one Maryland county—Montgomery County—had more three-car families than any other county in the United States. And of course, these cars are traveling more than ever before. I can remember, and perhaps many of you here can remember, when a 30-mile trip was a human ordeal, with tire blowouts, breakdowns and an almost endless variety of mishaps that tended to discourage motor travel. Not so today, to be sure. We think nothing