

inventory. I doubt if many of you know this but the Governor of Arizona, Paul Fannin, and I have a friendly rivalry going on in the area of traffic safety since we both share an intense interest in this field. Each of us would like to see his State emerge as the champion in the field of traffic safety. At the Governors' Conference, Governor Fannin also received word regarding Arizona's achievement in this area, and, as fate would have it, Arizona also scored 91 per cent in the safety inventory. Thus, Maryland and Arizona now share first place in the nation and I suspect that the friendly rivalry between Tawes of Maryland and Fannin or Arizona will continue at the next Governors' Conference.

During the past five and a half years that I have had the privilege of serving as chief executive of this great State, it has been my earnest desire to promote various safety programs for the benefit of our citizens. To me, these are essential if we are to reduce to the absolute minimum accidents caused as a result of human carelessness. Every year, in May, the Governor's Safety-Health Conference is held in Baltimore and attended by representatives of hundreds of business firms in Maryland and also by all State departments. The purpose of this conference is to interest citizens in safety and to transmit new ideas on reducing industrial accidents.

Not very long ago, I journeyed to Memphis, Tennessee, to discuss various programs for fire prevention and control for Maryland long has been a recognized leader in this field. Thus, it is only natural that we should promote safety on our highways with the same zeal and energy that we promote safety in our homes and factories. I assure you that, as Governor of Maryland, I shall continue to devote the energies and resources of this State to the battle against traffic fatalities and industrial and home accidents.

I note that today's luncheon will also serve to inaugurate the safe driving campaign for the Fourth of July weekend. This campaign—"Lights on for Safety"—has the unqualified support of traffic safety enthusiasts and I assure you that it also have mine. Not only am I interested in the welfare of my fellow citizens, but I also am interested in having the privilege of telling my good friend, Governor Fannin, that Maryland has surpassed Arizona in the field of traffic safety.

In closing, permit me once again to publicly commend the personnel of the various State departments that have earned for Maryland an outstanding reputation in the field of traffic safety. These awards today are a tribute to their dedication to the welfare of their fellow citizens and to their skill in their respective professions.