

concerting their resources to do an effective job in traffic safety. But these agencies cannot do the job alone. It is of the utmost importance that the State and local governments have the support of an organized and effective citizenry behind them. And there is no better way for them to receive this support than through conferences such as this one. You, more than anyone else, can reach these careless motorists and impress upon them the seriousness of their errors. You can set examples as cautious, courteous drivers. You can condition reckless motorists through your safety exhibits into an awareness of safe driving practices. And, as I said before, given these right motivations, I feel certain the normal driver will respond and find it easier to be a safe driver than a reckless one.

I urge you, then, as enlightened citizens with keen senses of responsibility, to continue in your promotion of highway safety. I am counting on the individuals and groups which have assembled here for this Conference for advice and assistance on ways to make Maryland a safer place in which to live. I know I can rely on you, the members of the 1966 Safety-Health Conference, to help rid Maryland of its number one disaster area. By your efforts and those of similar citizens and groups, we can join together in the battle against motorists who maim and kill on our public roads. Let us at last rid our highways of the scourge of death and the stigma of a "disaster area."

STATEMENT ON TRAFFIC SAFETY

ANNAPOLIS

May 17, 1966

In spite of the valiant efforts being made by many dedicated men and women, the tragic death and accident rate on Maryland's highways continues to rise at an alarming rate. This catastrophic waste of human resources must end. Somehow, we must convince every citizen of this State to become personally involved and concerned about safety on our highways.

I grieve with all Americans for the young men of this Country who have given their lives for a purpose and a principle on the battlefields of Viet Nam. But the fact that more Americans are killed in senseless slaughter on our Nation's highways in less than a month than have been killed since the undertaking of the defense of Viet Nam seems to impress very few.