

In Maryland, 262 citizens have been killed in traffic accidents since the first of the year, 46 more than during a similar period last year. Last week, 33 people died, 19 of them only this past weekend and eight in one accident. This is an intolerable situation and to meet it, I call upon every member of the Judiciary in Maryland to invoke the sternest measures against violators of our traffic laws; I call upon all State's Attorneys to inveigh the powers of their offices against those who have demonstrated a flagrant disregard for the lives of their fellow citizens. Finally, I am directing the State Police and all law enforcement officials in Maryland to exercise the greatest diligence in the enforcement of this State's traffic laws.

During the most recent Christmas and New Year's holidays, I instructed the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to summon to a Departmental hearing every motorist convicted of a moving violation, however minor. As of this date, more than 1,000 such hearings have been held and several hundred licenses have been either suspended or revoked.

In today's highly mobile society, the loss of one's driving privilege can impose economic problems upon both individuals and families. However distasteful such punishment might be, it is far preferable to death and destruction on our highways. Should there be no let-up in the accident and fatality rate, then, without question, even more severe procedures will be instituted to provide for the suspension or revocation of driving privileges.

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## REMARKS, DRIVER IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR STATE EMPLOYEES

BALTIMORE

June 29, 1966

It is a real pleasure to welcome you here this morning at the opening session of the driver improvement program for State employees. I have followed, with a great deal of interest, the progress that this program has been making throughout the country, and with particular interest the progress that has been made in Maryland.

Several months ago the Baltimore Safety Council began the program locally, in the metropolitan area of Baltimore. With a hearty assist from the *Sunpapers*, as well as financial backing, generous mention in news columns, full-page announcements, and several television programs dealing with the program, the Safety Council met with immediate suc-