

subjects in which we share a vital interest, namely sound laws and traffic safety.

Before becoming Governor of Maryland I was the County Executive of Baltimore County, and in this capacity I had the privilege of working with your organization in a cooperative effort to secure necessary laws and safety programs.

I am convinced that in order to have an enduring and effective traffic safety program, we must enact sensible and reasonably uniform laws. The recent Federal Highway Safety Act of 1966 is a major step in the right direction, and it provides a stepping stone for effective State action.

We in Maryland are in substantial agreement with the proposed highway safety standards and, I can say with some pride, that in many instances our State programs either meet or exceed the tentative proposals. In some areas where Maryland was not in compliance, corrective legislation was introduced at the last Legislative session. In some instances, we were successful; in others, we were not.

We were successful in securing the enactment of comprehensive legislation requiring the special examination and licensing of the operators of two-wheeled vehicles and we anticipate the enactment of legislation requiring the use of approved helmets and goggles for the operators of motorcycles should such a requirement be included in the final Federal standards.

We were equally successful in securing the enactment of legislation bringing Maryland's driver education program into substantial conformity with that recommended by your Bureau and in gaining approval from the General Assembly of this State's participation in the development of a National Highway Safety program.

Unfortunately, proposals to establish a system of periodic motor vehicle inspection, an implied consent law and periodic reexamination of drivers 65 years of age and older were not enacted. A proposal requiring the State Department of Public Welfare to submit the names of individuals applying for blind benefits to the State Department of Motor Vehicles was opposed by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, whose representatives indicated that such disclosures might jeopardize Federal welfare assistance. Thus, we found ourselves in the curious position of supporting one Federally recommended program partly to avoid the loss of funds only to be confronted with the prospect of losing funds from another Federal source should the pro-