

He said State Police records showed that at the beginning of this week there had been 715 persons killed on Maryland streets and highways this year, an increase of 45 over the same period last year.

"In sending my official greetings to this meeting, I want to take this opportunity to urge all of you concerned with law enforcement, and the judiciary as well, to redouble your efforts to halt the senseless slaughter on our highways and streets," he said.

"I urge you to return to your departments with fresh determination to strictly enforce existing traffic safety laws.

"At the same time, I am calling on those judicial officials who hear traffic cases to back up your efforts with stringent penalties for those convicted and also to impress upon offenders the gravity of even seemingly minor traffic offenses.

"It is not enough to blame human error for the accident rate, or to depend on individual drivers to protect their own lives, let alone those who become their innocent victims.

"We, as public officials charged with the responsibility, must invoke the maximum restraint possible."

The Governor is sending letters to lower court judges throughout the State this week urging their cooperation in a campaign to cut down the injury and death toll.

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## STATEMENT ON PROPOSED MERGER OF N&W AND C&O RAILWAY SYSTEMS

November 29, 1967

In view of the announcement that hearings before the Interstate Commerce Commission on the proposed merger of the Norfolk & Western and Chesapeake & Ohio Railway systems will open on December 5, I would like to strongly endorse the position taken by the Maryland Port Authority in this matter.

Recognizing that the proposed merger of the Norfolk & Western and the Chesapeake & Ohio rail systems would give the Norfolk & Western improved access to the Port of Baltimore, I nevertheless share the fears expressed by the Authority that an indefinite continuation of control of The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Company by the merged system would prove injurious to the B&O and consequently the Port.