

The Commission is now fully organized with chairmen in every County and in the City of Baltimore. An Executive Committee of ten, representing every section has been selected and Mr. Thomas B. Abbott, an outstanding business man of Baltimore, accepted my invitation to act as general chairman.

Realizing that the solution of various questions pertaining to the general problem depended upon three basic points, we decided to strive for the improvement through education, enforcement and engineering. To accomplish the best results, it was also decided to appoint six permanent committees to deal with the following important phases of the situation: Public education, school safety, law enforcement, legislation, statistics and engineering. On the Executive Committee are included: the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, the Superintendent of State Police, the State Superintendent of Public Education, the Chairman of the State Roads Commission and the Police Commissioner of Baltimore City.

A working organization, in which the members are to devote their full time, is already set-up and the word "Go" is being given tonight, throughout Maryland. It will succeed because we are determined that it can succeed. I bespeak your active cooperation which is so essential to the success of any such general undertaking.

By public proclamation I have designated this approaching week, from October 1 to October 7, as Traffic Safety Week. This done because experience and accident records show that the months of October, November and December constitute the worse periods of the year from a fatality standpoint. Isn't it worthy of your best efforts to cooperate in order that a number of people who would otherwise be killed or maimed for life can be spared during the next three months?

In the schools, arrangements have been made to teach every high school student methods of driving automobiles carefully, and well-considered lessons will be demonstrated for the benefit of all students to teach the way to public safety. Fifty thousand pamphlets will be placed in the hands of school children and members of civic organizations, and motorists generally, which show by chart and interesting factual data what this problem is and how it can be improved. We are not going to stop, and we are encouraged to believe that success will be achieved because of the assurances already received from civic organizations and interested groups throughout the State.

Every citizen of Maryland can cooperate in this effort, and no matter if you drive a pleasure car, a truck or a bus, you can eliminate accidents by driving carefully and by studiously obeying the laws. A great proportion of accidents are attributable to failure to observe regulations regarding the passing of cars on curves and hills, swerving in and out of traffic, disregard of boulevard and other stop signs. Equally dangerous is the practice of driving when you are not physically fit because of fatigue, illness or otherwise.

There may be romance in the all-day-long journeys where you cover four or five hundred miles in a relatively short period, but there is danger too. In a great many accidents, speed, excessive speed, appears to be the root of the trouble. We are engaged on a program of road building which will give to the people of Maryland the best roads we have ever enjoyed. But this is not an invitation to speed at the greatest rate because a good stretch of road is ahead. No matter how careful or expert you may be, the other driver may not be so