

State government, I stated that it is common knowledge that most of the traffic accidents occur as a result of violations of laws enacted to protect the motoring public. I said that I did not condone the careless and reckless handling of motor vehicles on the part of any person, and least of all on the part of persons operating State-owned vehicles. I called upon State employees to obey all the laws scrupulously, and in particular those applicable to traffic safety.

At the session of the General Assembly this year, numerous bills were introduced relating to highway safety. Among them were measures providing for a program of driver training in public high schools, for motor vehicle inspection, for the point system for penalizing traffic offenders, for chemical tests for drunken drivers, for raising minimum eyesight requirements for applicants for drivers' licenses and others.

I instructed my staff to screen these bills carefully. In the end, my Administration concentrated its efforts on the two measures we thought would be most effective in the curtailment of accidents. One of these was the so-called point system and the other the chemical tests for drunken-driving cases.

Often cited in discussions of traffic safety is the paradox that drivers, in the face of all the frightening statistics, refuse to believe that they, themselves, can become the casualties of speed and reckless driving. They cannot imagine death happening to them, and so, they read the statistics and continue to drive in excess of a safe speed. But they can conceive of losing their driving permit, and when they are confronted with the threat of suspension or revocation of their licenses, they are likely to drive more carefully. To be unable to drive in this automotive age is a severe personal handicap. The great merit of the point system is that it serves as a constant reminder to the motorist that he may lose his right to drive a car.

The *Evening Sun* was correct in its statement that the system must be administered efficiently. With that in mind, we postponed the operative date of the measure until December 31, 1960, to give the Department of Motor Vehicles an opportunity to set up an effective program of administration.

I consider the point system a cardinal point in my traffic safety program. Other measures will be examined studiously as time goes on, and if they appear to be feasible, I shall ask that they be adopted.

Already enacted into law is the provision for chemical tests for drunken drivers. It is an acknowledged fact that many accidents result from excessive drinking of alcoholic beverages by the drivers of motor