

session of the General Assembly later this week. Meanwhile, John J. McMullen, the distinguished Cumberland newspaper publisher and businessman who is now a member of the Commission, has kindly agreed to serve as Chairman until the new Commission is established.

In conclusion, gentlemen, may I express my personal appreciation of the splendid cooperation you have given and are giving in the modernization of the Maryland highway system. During my Administration, we will work together to give this great State the high quality of highway construction it requires and has every right to expect.

ADDRESS, MARYLAND HIGHWAY USERS CONFERENCE

BALTIMORE

July 1, 1959

I want to thank you of the Maryland Highway Users Conference for inviting me to join you for lunch and to talk briefly about a subject of interest to every Marylander—highways. I am sure all our citizens are interested in roads, but it is gratifying to me to meet with groups like this whose interest in better and safer highways is active and dynamic.

You and I know that the importance of an adequate system of highways in Maryland cannot be over-emphasized. We need good roads first, of course, for safety—to shield the people of Maryland as much as possible from the frightful expense of accidents on highways. . . . We need good roads, furthermore, because they help our State economically by inducing new business and industry to locate within the State. No company interested in building a new plant would locate here if our highway system were inferior—if there were no plans on the books to improve it constantly. We could have the best geographic features, the best tax structure, the best labor situation in the world, but no company would build in Maryland if it could not get its product to market efficiently and relatively inexpensively. These factors, safety and economic growth, were prime matters of consideration when my highway program was presented to the General Assembly early this year.

The Administration's safety program includes the point system. All of you, I am sure, know how it works. A driver accumulates a certain number of demerits for violations. If, as a result of frequent violations, he collects too many of these demerits, his license is taken away. He is no