

Our Commission does not compute the economic loss in highway accidents. Our main concern, of course, is in the prevention of highway deaths and the suffering and anguish occasioned by these tragedies. But national actuaries employ the figure, \$125,000 for each death, and if we use that same figure we observe an economic saving of \$9 million dollars thus far this year.

I have discussed traffic safety before many audiences recently, and to all of them I attempt to summarize some of the measures we have taken, and are taking, to make our highways safer for motor travel.

I regard the point system, which has operated from the beginning of this year, as the keystone of our traffic safety program. By placard, by billboard, by word of mouth, motorists are being warned that if they speed or drive recklessly, they lose their license. "Eight points and you walk," they are admonished. We hope and believe it is having a good effect.

To improve our program of safety education, the General Assembly, with my strong indorsement, approved at its recent session the establishment of driver education courses in our public high schools. It is an established fact that boys and girls who receive such training are much less inclined to drive carelessly and cause accidents.

As I have done each year since I became Governor, I have authorized 40 additional troopers for our Maryland State Police, the purpose being to improve our enforcement program. And my budget for the next fiscal year contains an appropriation to provide salary increases to troopers, a measure designed to attract men of ability and character to these positions.

And to round out the "three E's," we are, of course, building new highways as fast as we can—faster than ever before in the history of our State.

I am delighted tonight that the Safety First Club is presenting Wheelmaster Awards to these deserving persons. I note with deep satisfaction that among them is Mrs. Helen Tullis, who has gained recognition throughout the country for her outstanding work in the promotion of pedestrian safety. Mrs. Tullis is now a full-time associate of the Maryland Traffic Safety Commission, and I am told our Commission is the only such agency in the country having a person employed full time in pedestrian safety

I offer sincere congratulations to the recipients of these Wheelmaster Awards. I ask all of you earnestly to help me in my effort to make Maryland a safer State in which to travel.