

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

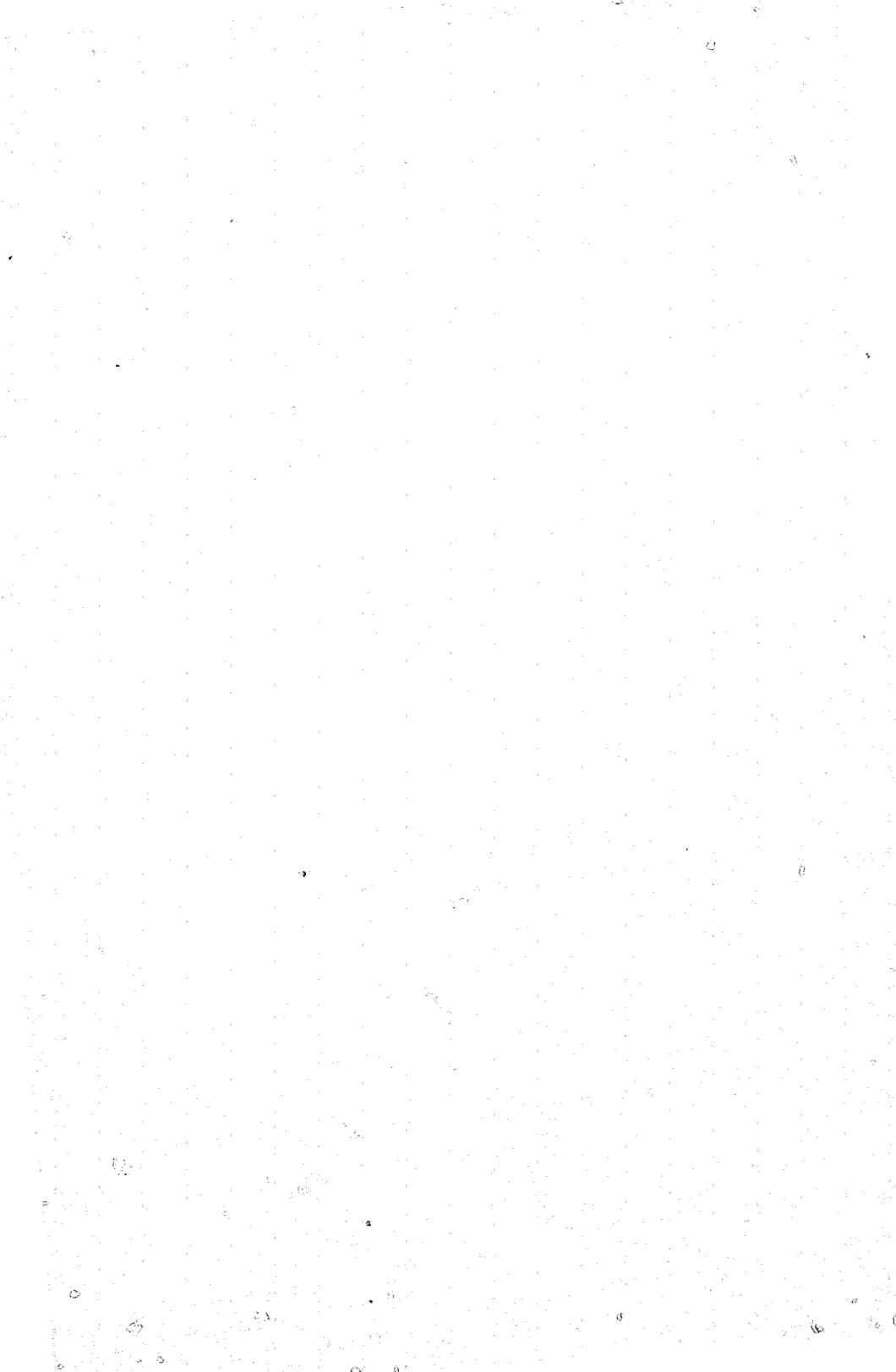
Department of State Police



47969

Annual Report

1977



Commonwealth of Virginia  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE  
Richmond, Virginia

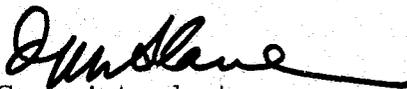
June 1, 1978

The Honorable John N. Dalton  
Governor of Virginia  
State Capitol  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Governor Dalton:

Enclosed is a report of the activities of the  
Department of State Police for the calendar  
year 1977.

Sincerely,

  
Superintendent

DMS/rs1

Enclosure

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### PERSONNEL

There was a total of 1,729 authorized positions in the Department at the end of the year which included 1,230 police and 499 civilian positions. Final vacancies existed in 78 police and 22 civilian positions.

There were 91 police officers employed and losses were 79. Seventy-nine civilian positions were filled as opposed to 62 losses.

Average police strength for the year was 1,127 with a turnover rate of 7.01%.

### TRAINING

The training facility operated at peak capacity throughout the year. There were 105 training sessions conducted for Department personnel and 42 for other agencies resulting in 4,919 hours of instruction for 4,062 officers.

In-service classes were attended by all experienced police personnel and dispatchers, and training sessions were conducted for supervisors (sworn and civilian), investigators, scuba divers, canine handlers, polygraph examiners, breath-test operators, aircraft pilots, dispatchers, tactical teams, first-aid instructors and identi-kit operators.

Two basic schools were completed and basic courses of instruction were offered to breath-test operators, canine handlers, tactical team members and scuba divers. We began our Trooper Trainee program in May and trained 83 newly appointed troopers in seven sessions.

Our training facility was used by a host of agencies such as the Henrico County Police Department, Richmond Police Department, Richmond Regional Police Academy, Virginia Commonwealth University, Division of Forestry, Division of Game and Inland Fisheries, Division of Motor Vehicles and Division of Parks. In all, we provided 1,040 employees from other agencies 716 hours of instruction in 42 sessions.

In addition, Department instructors provided 1,362 hours of instruction in other criminal justice schools throughout the Commonwealth.

We also enrolled 231 members of the Department in 73 outside schools where they received 14,646 hours of instruction.

### ENFORCEMENT

The records maintained by the Records and Statistics Division reflect that members of the Department reported 361,506 arrests during the 1977 calendar year. Arrests for offenses involving the highways totaled 348,547 or 96.4% of the total reported. Arrests for traffic offenses totaled 347,743 or 96.2% of the total reported. The 349,260 traffic cases that cleared the courts resulted in a conviction rate of 94.6%.

In adjudicating traffic cases, the courts imposed \$8,497,935.00 in fines, assessed \$5,929,771.00 in court costs, assessed \$1,363,066.00 as liquidation damages in overweight cases and imposed jail sentences totaling 614 years.

In adjudicating criminal cases, the courts imposed \$389,303.00 in fines, assessed \$725,264.00 in court costs, and imposed jail sentences totaling 9,263 years.

Arrests for traffic offenses involving commercial vehicles totaled 90,948 or 26.2% of the total traffic

offenses charged, whereas commercial vehicles accounted for 25.5% of the average daily traffic flow for the year on interstate, arterial and primary routes. Arrests for moving hazardous offenses totaled 76,462 or 84.1% of the total traffic offenses charged against commercial vehicle operators.

Members of the Department also conducted 17,713 investigations during the year. As a result of these investigations, 836 stolen vehicles valued at \$1,763,992.00; 4,222 abandoned vehicles valued at \$5,443,484.00; 755 vehicles seized with \$28,362.00 accruing to the Commonwealth as a result of sales; and other stolen property valued at \$541,710.00 were recovered. This property valuation added to the fines, costs and liquidation damages assessed by the courts totals \$24,682,887.00.

### CENTRAL CRIMINAL RECORDS EXCHANGE

The Central Criminal Records Exchange processed 95,687 sets of fingerprints and added 35,288 individual criminal history records to the repository. Additionally, 101,068 inquiries from federal state and local agencies were answered.

The Microfilm Section produced 412,800 criminal history document images.

### ANALYSIS OF TRAFFIC CRASHES

During the year, there were 142,270 crashes in which 1,145 persons received fatal injuries and 57,389 persons received nonfatal injuries. Total crashes increased 9.9%, injury crashes increased 7.7%, and fatal crashes increased 11.0%.

The mileage death rate per 100,000,000 miles

traveled in Virginia reflects an increase from 2.8 in 1976 to 3.0 in 1977, and remains somewhat lower than the national rate of 3.3 for the year.

In addition to the routine analysis of Virginia's 1977 motor vehicle crash experience to provide meaningful information for enforcement, engineering and educational purposes, the logging operation of the Accident Records Section identified 2,541 crash-prone locations.

These locations were brought to the attention of the enforcement and engineering personnel for such further analysis and corrective action as the existing conditions warranted in furtherance of our cooperative effort with the Department of Highways and Transportation to eliminate highway hazards and correct unsafe driver behavior.

### INVESTIGATIONS

The Division of Investigation answered 3,493 requests for assistance which resulted in 4,178 investigations during the calendar year 1977, the Division's third full year since its creation on July 1, 1974. Twelve hundred and seventy-three, or 36.4% of the total number of requests, were pursuant to §52-8.1 of the Code of Virginia which permits the Governor, the Attorney General, any sheriff, chief of police, Commonwealth's Attorney or grand jury to request an investigation to determine whether any criminal violations have occurred, are occurring or are about to occur. Of the 3,493 requests, 2,565, or 73.4%, have been completed, leaving 928 requests in a pending status. Criminal arrests for 1977 totaled 3,089 and other arrests (legal documents, etc.) amounted to 178 for a total of 3,267.

Categories of crimes investigated in 1977 were:

Crimes Against Persons	573
Crimes Against Property	2,065

Statutory Crimes	1,664
Organized Crimes	83
White Collar Crimes	<u>108</u>
Total	3,493

Additionally the members of the Division of Investigation conducted 1,047 hours of related instruction at community colleges, the Forensic Science Academy and various police academies throughout the Commonwealth. Members consumed 868 hours preparing for these classes. They also conducted 70 hours of drug and other crime related lectures to 2,135 persons, involving civic club members, church and other citizen groups.

During 1977, the Department contributed personnel and equipment and participated with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Tidewater Area Law Enforcement in a nine-month cooperative anti-fencing undercover operation. This two-pronged operation resulted in 107 individuals charged in 276 indictments varying from homicide and robbery to criminal solicitation. Stolen property valued at \$600,370.68 was recovered by two operating fronts. The operation was proposed to the Enforcement Division, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA), which approved the concept, thus creating the first multi-city, state, and federal anti-fencing operation of this magnitude in the United States.

The total permanent sworn personnel remained at 128 members who average 16 years each in police and investigative experience. This experience continued to be enhanced during 1977 with incessant emphasis on training. In addition to the regular investigator's in-service school, an identi-kit school for composite drawings, and a polygraph school for all operators were held at the State Police Academy. We graduated two members from the Forensic Science Academy

bringing the total to eight. Other related courses of instruction attended by members of this Division are: FBI National Academy, and Investigative Techniques of Computer-related Crimes, Quantico, Virginia; National Training Institute, Drug Enforcement Officers Academy, Washington, D. C.; Southern Police Institute, Police Science and Administration, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky; Harvard Associates in Police Science and Homicide Investigation, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland; Hazardous Devices Course to Deal with Clandestine Bombs, U. S. Army Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama.

### CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE

The Criminal Intelligence Unit completed 531 investigations, and had 36 investigations pending at the end of the year.

Routine personal contacts were maintained with members of the Department of State Police and with local and federal agencies on a statewide basis. Numerous conferences, seminars and meetings were attended by members of the Unit with other intelligence units and law enforcement groups for the purpose of exchanging intelligence information. The referral of organized crime cases by the Unit to the Division of Investigation and other agencies for further investigation resulted in numerous prosecutions.

Members of the Intelligence Unit spent 18 hours presenting organized crime lectures to law enforcement groups and the business community. Two members received a total of 160 hours of specialized instruction in unit analyst training.

### FINANCES

Funds available, expenditures and balance for the

calendar year 1977 were:

Funds Available	\$34,156,977
Expended	<u>33,248,987</u>
Unexpended Balance	\$ 907,990

### COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Division consists of the Virginia Criminal Information Network with a terminal connected to the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS), seven radio base stations, located at Melfa and the six field division headquarters, and several portable base stations.

Radio contact is maintained with the Tennessee Highway Patrol, Kingsport; West Virginia State Police, Beckley; and Kentucky State Police, London, through the Wytheville Division Headquarters. The Melfa base station has direct radio communications with the Maryland State Police at Salisbury. The Norfolk Division Headquarters has radio contact with most of the jurisdictions in the Norfolk metropolitan area. The Culpeper Division Headquarters has contact with most of the jurisdictions in the Washington area, including the Maryland State Police, the Metropolitan Police Department and U. S. Park Police through the Metro Radio System.

The Virginia Criminal Information Network, a computer controlled communications facility, is composed of 133 terminals maintained by 90 agencies. These terminals are in municipal police departments, sheriffs' offices, State Police offices, county police departments, Federal Bureau of Investigation offices, the Division of Motor Vehicles and Army Provost Marshal's Office. The State Police Administrative Headquarters acts as the control center, and all computer switching equipment is located and controlled

from this point.

During 1977, this Network handled approximately 21, 877, 127 transactions. There were 1, 777, 440 messages to the National Crime Information Center's computerized data base and 3, 319, 980 transactions initiated with the Transportation & Public Safety Computer Resource Center. The remainder of the activity included replies to these data base transactions and other police communications.

The Department serves as the Virginia point of entry in the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS) and is the Virginia control agency for the National Crime Information Center's (NCIC) operation.

Radio dispatch service was furnished to approximately 220 mobile units of other governmental agencies, including the Governor's Office; sheriffs' offices; Federal Bureau of Investigation; Alcoholic Beverage Control Board; Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Division of the U. S. Treasury Department; Department of Highways and Transportation; Department of Corrections, and the Division of Motor Vehicles.

The State Police Radio System handled 1, 324, 601 radio messages during the year.

The Communications Division maintains and provides special equipment for use in connection with special events, investigations and disasters.

The Communications Division maintained all radio and electronic equipment operated by the Department of State Police, the Department of Highways and Transportation, the Enforcement Division of the ABC Board, the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, the State Division of Forestry, the Division of Motor Vehicles,

mobile and base station equipment operated by the Office of Emergency Services, and several units for the Department of Corrections.

### MOTOR VEHICLE INSPECTION

Virginia's periodic motor vehicle inspection program received recognition as outstanding. Numerous inquiries from other states were received concerning the administration of it. Over the years several states have seen fit to pattern their programs after Virginia's. During 1977, representatives from other states visited Virginia in order to make a study of our program. Various members of the Department were called upon to serve on motor vehicle inspection forums and explain Virginia's system. Motor vehicle inspection continued to be one of the best preventive maintenance measures since it does not rely on voluntary compliance.

The Department supervised 3,184 inspection stations and 12,820 mechanics. More than 6,810,814 inspections were conducted. Supervision of the program required 2.1% of all trooper man-hours, and the total cost of administering the program amounted to eight cents for each inspection. The percentage of defective vehicles found on inspection amounted to approximately 26%. This was an increase of approximately 0.5% compared with 1976.

Interest in the inspection program on the part of repair garages desiring to qualify as official inspection stations continued to be high during the year. As a result of the many applications received, 263 new inspection stations were appointed.

### APPROVAL OF SAFETY DEVICES

The approval, or waiver of approval, procedure enabled us to retain control of safety devices installed on motor vehicles covered by our statutes. The simplified identification procedure is of tremendous aid to inspectors in expediting their work, as well as to our enforcement people. Most original, as well as after-market, producers of motor vehicle devices are now following this identification procedure.

The increase in imported vehicles continued to require the issuance of many formal approval certificates since some of the foreign manufacturers have not yet tooled for waiver identification. There were 495 applications for formal approval and waiver of approval processed during 1977.

### NATIONAL AND LOCAL PARTICIPATION

Members of this Department actively engaged in many outstanding national and local organizations' promotion of traffic safety programs. This has been a source of great value in improving Virginia's traffic position by increasing public awareness and interest in our efforts.

### INTRADEPARTMENTAL SAFETY

The Department's procedures for compiling reportable crashes involving its vehicles and the resultant standards of responsibility for our operators continued to be far stricter than those applied to the general public. Departmental vehicles were operated a total of 33,584,906 miles and the mileage rate for reportable crashes in which the Department operator was deemed to be negligent amounted to one in each 180,564 miles.

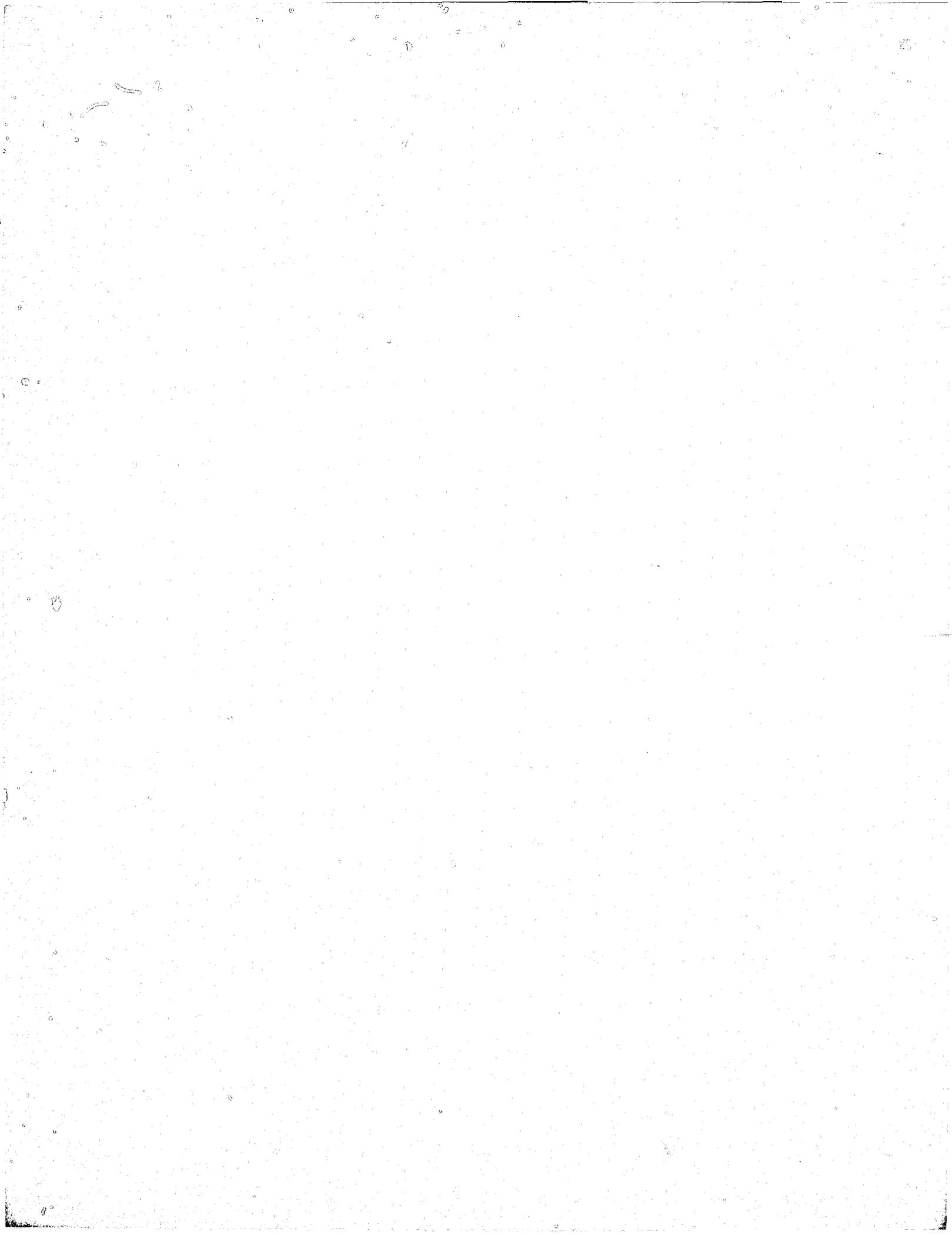
### STATE-OPERATED MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY

Following the pattern established in 1949, a progress report was prepared for the Governor covering the administration of the safety program for all State-owned vehicles. The Accident Prevention Committee was composed of representatives from 12 State agencies. Committee members met each month and reviewed all crashes involving State-owned and operated equipment. Special attention was given to trends and patterns so proper recommendations could be given agency administrators to assist them in programs designed to improve State drivers. Cooperation of all State departments has remained extremely high, as evidenced by their continuing efforts to make improvements.

### TRAFFIC SAFETY PROMOTION

During 1977, the Department continued to work very closely with the Highway Safety Division on matters of mutual interest.

The Department also maintained very close liaison with the Traffic and Safety Division of the Department of Highways and Transportation. Through these cooperative efforts, several highway hazards and accident-prone locations were corrected.



**END**