at 97 million. In the short span of two decades, we have been transformed into a nation on wheels.

The stream of vehicles on our streets and highways is increasing at an astronomical rate of 3 million a year.

Traffic accident deaths and injuries are increasing 58-percent faster than motor vehicle registrations.

It costs almost 50-percent more to repair a popular-priced car today than it did 10 years ago.

In the last 10 years, hospital daily service charges have risen 92 percent and physicians' fees 39 percent.

And if you want to look back 20 years, hospital daily service charges have skyrocketed 354 percent.

We have no control over these inflationary costs and soaring statistics. Yet these are the dollar signs of the times as far as the insurers are concerned when it comes to paying claims and settling millions and millions of cases.

These are the cost figures we are saddled with when we are called upon to honor our contract with the American public—a contract that calls for us to defend, indemnify and provide a service. These factors—and the law as it now exists—are the standards against which our performance should be measured.

In a short period of incredible growth and change and inflation, we have compiled a record of accomplishment, of service, of meeting an unparalleled need. It is a record of vigor and action, of imagination and optimism.

We are proud of this record.

We stand ready to work with this committee and with any agencies you designate in our continuing effort to achieve optimum performance in serving the needs of the American motoring public.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Moss. Thank you.

Mr. Watkins.

Mr. WATKINS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have no questions. Your testimony is very helpful and very clear.

In the National Association of Independent Insurers, how many various insurance companies do you represent?

Mr. LEMMON. About 350.

Mr. WATKINS. Do you have any members in Pennsylvania?

Mr. LEMMON. We have some, yes, sir. The Harleysville Mutual, Keystone, Erie Insurance Exchange. I would be delighted to furnish a complete list.

Mr. WATKINS. That is not necessary.

I would like to ask one question. Have you had any mutual insurance companies that have gone out of business?

Mr. LEMMON. I suppose every organization in its history has had member companies that become insolvent. We have had a few, unfortunately.

Mr. WATKINS. How many would you say? You have had a few in Pennsylvania.

Mr. LEMMON. I don't believe any of those were our members, Congressman. That is one reason we innovated and suggested this uninsured motorist protection and insolvency protection.