

ADDRESSES
and
STATE PAPERS
of
SPIRO T. AGNEW
GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND
1967-1969

Edited by
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State of Maryland
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As Governor of this State, I cannot and will not tolerate riot-induced felonies which verge on anarchy, nor will I allow the individuals who maliciously inspire such action to slip away unchallenged. I have directed the authorities to seek out H. Rap Brown and bring him to justice. Such a person cannot be permitted to enter a State with the intention to destroy and then sneak away leaving these poor people with the results of his evil scheme.

NEWS CONFERENCE

July 26, 1967

Q. Governor Agnew, how long will the National Guard stay in Cambridge?

A. I can't tell you the answer to that right now, it depends on the situation and how it develops. Certainly, the National Guard will stay in Cambridge until the condition of serenity is restored.

Q. Governor, what assurances do you have, if any, from the Negro leaders and the Negro community to keep the peace in Cambridge?

A. I have people on the scene in Cambridge including Colonel Lally, Dr. Ware and others who are in constant contact with the community in Cambridge, and every effort is being made to restore the peace and tranquility of the area. I can't really tell you whether we can contact everyone and assure ourselves completely that we are going to be able to do this.

Q. You have been criticized severely by CORE leaders for your attack on Rap Brown. What is your reply?

A. Well, I just finished listening to the Rap Brown tape recording for the first time and it simply reinforced my conviction that what Rap Brown did was entirely reprehensible, criminal, and not in the service of either the Negro or the white community. I think that the criticisms that I made of him were justified and we're going to see that he is prosecuted as we would any other person who's engaged in acts that are against the welfare of the community.

Q. What plans may you have worked out with the City of Baltimore to cope with the riot emergency in this city?

LETTER ON CIVIL RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITY

August 1, 1967

Honorable Nelson A. Rockefeller
Governor of New York
Albany, New York

Dear Nelson:

It was very encouraging to receive your telephone call this morning. As a matter of fact, it indicates beyond doubt that I have been entirely correct in my assessment of where the real leadership among the Republican Governors lies.

In response to your request, I am happy to furnish the following observations and information concerning the steps taken in Maryland to alleviate the recent racial stresses:

Before the riot in Cambridge occurred we had been working for about three weeks in an effort to quiet tensions there. I had sent in my most highly qualified Negro staff member and he was apparently making progress with the responsible members of the community. The appearance of H. Rap Brown and his inflammatory speech (a copy of which we were able to record) caused an outburst of violence and burning in the town. Prompt action by the State Police and National Guard restored order by the next day and we have been able to pull the Guard out without provoking further incidents. Brown is being extradited from Virginia to face charges of inciting to riot and arson. The case is well documented and should be successful.

Realizing that an immediate grassroots effort had to be undertaken in Cambridge and believing that because of the violence it should be spearheaded by the local private sector instead of government, I stimulated the organization of a bi-racial committee which is now operating very effectively. The objectives are to provide relief for the victims of violence and to begin digging into the long-range causes of the trouble. My role was simply to encourage a recognition of the problem and provide the impetus for the initial meeting.

Immediately after the Cambridge outbreak I provided all the news media with a definitive statement of my position, stressing that the firmest governmental action should occur where the people of the slums were exercising restraint and self-control. The Mayor of Baltimore and I together began a crash program

to provide jobs in Baltimore's inner city. Recognizing that this was a job for an individual rather than a committee, we solicited and obtained the full-time services of a top Westinghouse executive to head a tripartite committee. The idea was that the industrialist, through State government, City government and private industry, would mobilize all resources to provide jobs in the ghetto. This program has attracted wide support among the media and has already provided over 750 jobs. It is expected that as many as 5000 jobs will be provided in the near future.

An effort has been made to give responsible Negro leadership a major role in alleviating the outbursts of violence. I feel very strongly that we should stop the traditional process of dealing with the most militant and least responsible leadership simply because they have paused in their violence to talk for a while. If we respond to such pressures we are only dignifying these people in the eyes of the masses and cutting the legs out from under the real talent — Wilkins, Young, etc.

Your suggestion that the Republican Governors in industrial areas with significant Negro population meet quickly to evolve a series of positive steps is not only a good one but a necessary one. I will make myself available for such a meeting on short notice.

In conclusion, I would point out that we have a formidable problem in trying to get the news media to see the harm that sensationalism produces. The Detroit press reacted very poorly and dramatized isolated instances of the lack of police and guard restraint. Perhaps we must make some sort of united appeal to the communications ownership. I recognize that this is a very, very delicate matter but it certainly should come under discussion. I enclose a copy of Art Buchwald's column that illustrates some of the problems better than I could.

Kind personal regards.

REMARKS AT GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONIES,
COURTHOUSE ADDITION, KENT COUNTY,
CHESTERTOWN

August 4, 1967

It is a great honor to participate in this ceremony, when the present leaders of Kent County turn the first soil of the construction which

A. Samuel Cook of Baltimore, attorney and counsel to the Baltimore City School Commissioners and to a number of county school boards in Maryland and Pennsylvania.

F. George Heinze, III, of Bethesda, attorney and former legal assistant to the National Labor Relations Board.

Charles B. Heyman, Baltimore attorney and specialist in labor law.

Earle K. Shawe, Baltimore attorney and specialist in labor-management relations.

Henry Parks, Baltimore City Councilman and business leader.

Samuel T. Daniels, Baltimore attorney.

Russell S. Davis, State Commissioner of Personnel.

James P. Slicher, State Budget Director.

Senator Louise Gore, R-Montgomery County.

Senator Paul A. Dorf, D-Baltimore City 5th District.

Delegate Edward J. Bagley, D-Prince George's County.

Delegate Troy Brailey, D-Baltimore City 4th District.

Delegate Walter S. Orlinsky, D-Baltimore City 2nd District.

STATEMENT ON BOWIE STATE COLLEGE INVESTIGATION

April 1, 1968

I have today asked the Board of Trustees of State Colleges to investigate all aspects of the Bowie State College matter and to report to me when we discuss these problems later this week. The Board is the official governing body of the College and as such is the only proper agency to investigate complaints there.

In this connection, I have requested the Attorney General, who as a result of his meeting with students Saturday has agreed to accompany two State Senators on a tour of the College campus today, to work with and through the Board of Trustees.

I believe Mr. Burch is completely well motivated and sincere in his efforts, but his meeting today with the students is being misconstrued in some quarters as an investigation and is causing concern to the Trustees. There also has been some public misunderstanding that he is returning to the College at my direction. His visit is at the request of the two Senators who were with him at the College Saturday.

NEWS RELEASE AND STATEMENT CORRECTING RUMOR
ABOUT CONVERTING BOWIE STATE COLLEGE
TO COMMUNITY COLLEGE

April 1, 1968

Governor Agnew emphatically denied tonight rumors that State officials are planning to convert Bowie State College into a white community college.

"These reports apparently are being circulated by outside agitators in an attempt to inflame student opinion," the Governor said. "They are completely groundless. I have reaffirmed through the Board of Trustees of State Colleges that no such plans have even been considered by the Board.

"The vastly increased funds approved for the College in the past two budgets, and its rapid growth in enrollment, assure that it is being considered for an increasingly important role in the State's four-year college system.

"The responsible students of Bowie, who have genuine interest in the College's future, will do well to channel their grievances through the administration and the Trustees.

"We cannot and will not tolerate any repetition of last week's irresponsible actions."

SPECIAL NEWS CONFERENCE ON CLOSING
BOWIE STATE COLLEGE

April 4, 1968

OPENING STATEMENT BY THE GOVERNOR

This afternoon I had to make a very hard decision. As hard as the decision was, the need to make it was crystal clear. Very simply, the issue was whether or not to excuse and thereby condone a deliberate flouting and defiance of law, and the decision was hard because it involved nearly 300 young people and their arrest. Young people who confused provocation with principle — who were deliberately inflamed by outside influences, influences which all too often thrive on chaos and disrespect of the law.

I want to make one thing clear — everything possible was done to avoid the need to make these arrests. I consulted with Dr. Samuel Myers, the president of the College. And I want to commend him throughout the entire crisis for extremely perceptive analysis and handling of the situation. I consulted with Mr. Wilson, the Chairman of the Board of State College Trustees. Mr. Wilson in turn consulted with the other trustees, and they backed the action I have taken to the fullest extent. I want to commend the members of the Board for their reinforcement during this very difficult period of decision that's taken place over the past several days. And I don't want to forget in my commendation those students who exercised commendable restraint in remaining on the campus and refusing to participate in this defiance of law and order. It's really a shame that they must suffer.

There are two things that bear emphasizing. Point No. 1: This is not, repeat not, a racial dispute, but a dispute between students and college authority. Point No. 2: My refusal to knuckle under to the demands of students is not a point of personal pride with me, but pride and respect for this democracy and the law and the office of Governor of this great State. I'd like to briefly review the circumstances which led up to today's occurrences. The matter began on March 25th and, as I understand it, the students' displeasure evoked from the refusal of the faculty to grant tenure to a member of the College staff. Other complaints were triggered from this, involving general complaints of conditions at the College which I am the first to admit need great improvement. I did not refuse to respond to these complaints. I immediately dispatched one of my top staff people, Mr. Charles Bresler. He spent a whole day at the College, meeting with the students and the faculty to explain what is taking place in the College and what our aims are.

I want to reemphasize at this time my commitment to higher education in Maryland and my desire to see all of our colleges reach the highest academic standards. The problem became confused by the influx of certain students from another institution, by the taking up of the cudgel through misconstruction of the protest, by certain militant civil rights organizations and, unfortunately, all of the connotations of a racial quarrel have begun to surface.

I repeat — this is not a racial question, but a question of students disputing college authority. The budgets at this College have increased to a greater extent than any other institution in the State. In two years, the operating budget of this college has increased by nearly 100 percent from a little over a million dollars to a little over two million

dollars. Much is in the capital improvements budget to rectify the questions of which the students complain. Things were added in the supplemental budget when new money became available, by the action of the Board of Trustees. So the reasons to demand immediate redress are just not present. And if they are present, the demands must come through the duly constituted authority of the Board of Trustees.

Even today Mr. Cole of my staff, when these students came to Annapolis, told them he was willing to meet with them and discuss their problems. They demanded that they meet with me. I was not here. I had no intention of coming back to yield to such an ultimatum.

I want to tell you at this point that I have a great reluctance to close this college. I want to tell you that I have decided that I must, for what I hope will be a very short period of time, close down this institution. This is done with the consent and approval of the Board of Trustees. I have communicated this decision to Dr. Myers. He understands that the need for it is not the desire to make reprisals on the students, but the need to protect the public health, safety and general welfare. Remember that the initial uprisings were triggered by the presence on the campus of outside influences. Very easily these influences could return and it's important that I secure this State property. I hope that it will be possible to open this College again very shortly under a much more salutary atmosphere. I want to read this Executive Proclamation:

"Under the powers vested in me by the Constitution and Public General Laws of Maryland, and under the police powers which apply when the public health, safety and general welfare are threatened, I hereby direct that Bowie State College be closed until I find that conditions there have returned to normal.

"In making this serious decision, I do find as a matter of fact that the student demands, actions, and demonstrations constitute a clear and present danger to the public health, safety, and general welfare."

Finally, I just want to make a very short observation. The elected officials of this State face the voters every four years. In that four-year period they are entrusted with the public's safety and welfare. I'm certain that they — the public — do not want the Governor of this State, or any other elected official in whom they have reposed this confidence, to yield to unlawful and illegal tactics such as those that the State has seen in the past few days. I'm fully aware that these students have been orderly in their disorder, but I do not find that

an excuse for breaking the law. The law is clear — the statute contained in Article 27, Section 577A, of the Public General Laws of Maryland, states as follows: “Any person refusing or failing to leave a public building or grounds, or specific portion thereof, of a public agency or public institution during those hours of the day or night when the building, grounds, or specific portion thereof, is regularly closed to the public, upon being requested to do so by a regularly employed guard, watchman or other authorized employee of the public agency or institution owning, operating or maintaining the building or property, if the surrounding circumstances are such as to indicate to a reasonable man that such person has no apparent lawful business to pursue at such place, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not more than \$1,000, or imprisoned for not more than six months, or both, in the discretion of the court.”

I want to say that I consulted the Attorney General about this law before I took the action I took in making these arrests, and he concurs with me that the arrests are proper. I'm ready for your questions.

Questions and Answers

Q. Governor, who are these outside agitators — outside influences — these dangers that you spoke of?

A. Well, I think you know them as well as I — you've seen them functioning. I'm referring to certain members of the NAACP. A Mr. Brown, I think, is the name of one. I'm referring to the Howard University students, who have no business on the Bowie State campus. It wasn't a social visit they made; it was a visit for the purpose of causing this disturbance. Those are outside influences. I don't consider them to be good outside influences. Mrs. Rice from the Prince George's County NAACP. I've had other wires from other individuals whom I won't bother to designate at this moment.

Q. Governor, closing Bowie State College — what will this do to the dormitory students at the school? Will they have to find lodging elsewhere?

A. That's exactly right. Again, I'm sorry that people have to be inconvenienced, but a very broad question of the protection of public property is involved in this decision. And I emphasize that this is not done for the purpose of punishing; it's done for the purpose of securing public property.

Q. How long will they have to get out of the dormitories, Governor?

A. Well, I'm going to leave that up to Colonel Lally and the Police. They'll be allowed to enter the dormitories to get what effects they need and we will try to be nondisruptive as we can be.

Q. Governor, is the campus now secured under the State Police?

A. The State Police have been instructed to secure the campus.

Q. Was that at 7:30?

A. Well, yes.

Q. Governor, getting back to the point of outside influence again (garbled) . . . Governor. I'm sorry I couldn't understand that. (Question garbled — ends) : . . . danger to the public welfare?

A. Well, I think it's perfectly clear that when they made the statements that no one will refute that they made, that they were going to take such actions as utilizing the switchboard of the college — wasting water — certainly turning on lights — this is the beginning of other more serious steps that might involve the actual destruction of property. And when people embark upon a course of action that's deliberately calculated to inflame and provoke other action in response to it, there's no end to how far they can go. And I don't feel, in my position, having the responsibility in this State to protect the public property and the public health, safety and welfare, I don't feel disposed to see some drastic thing happen at that college campus tonight and then have people ask me tomorrow: "Why didn't you take action to secure it?"

Q. What would constitute the normalcy you spoke of?

A. Well, I think the condition of normalcy would indicate that conditions that prevailed on that College campus in a day-to-day situation two or three months ago, restored, would be normal in my opinion. In that regard, I do intend to meet with Dr. Myers and the Board of Trustees tomorrow to discuss the situation. I don't want to keep the school closed any longer than is absolutely necessary, because I recognize that this causes a great hardship to the students, particularly those who have not been involved in the lawbreaking.

Q. Governor, do you have any idea what the situation is at Bowie at this moment?

A. Well, I talked to Dr. Myers no longer than 15 minutes ago, and it was quiet.

Q. Have you alerted the National Guard?

A. I alerted the National Guard this afternoon, and it's a matter of routine that whenever any kind of dispute of this type, involving a

large number of people, is incipient, I always alert the National Guard, the State Police and other law enforcement agencies of localities.

Q. If outside influences persist in their efforts to stir up the students, will you take legal action?

A. I hadn't thought of any legal action at this moment, but obviously the school can't be reopened until normal conditions are restored, and I don't think the Bowie students are going to put up with too much more of this.

Q. Would normal conditions require the absence of Mr. Brown and the NAACP?

A. Yes, I don't think Mr. Brown has any part in this dispute. He's not a student at the College, and his presence there is not doing any good — it's not making any tangible progress toward the solution of any problems, either real or imaginary.

Q. Governor, how will you know when normal conditions prevail? The school will be closed.

A. I think that we'll still have an indication of the general climate of the community and of the students through the close touch that the faculty will continue to have with them. And incidentally, this faculty has been just magnificent in its response to this problem. They came here today, unsolicited, to try and convince these young people that this is not the correct course of action to obtain the redress of grievances. I'm sorry that they were unsuccessful, and I attribute their lack of success to the emotional harangue and to the escalation of the visceral parts of this dispute by the likes of Mr. Brown. I guess I don't get along with many Mr. Browns.

Q. Governor, how many of the students arrested are still detained and how many were able to post bond, do you know?

A. I heard from Major Smith of the State Police. He said all of the students — anyone who has been able to be identified as a student — has been released on recognizance. So most everyone has been released. There are very few that will be detained.

Q. Mr. Brown [garbled]

A. I have no knowledge of that.

Q. Were any nonstudents arrested that you know about, Governor?

A. I would believe that there were, but I have no personal knowledge of it.

Press: Thank you, Governor.

COMMENT ON THE KILLING OF
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

April 4, 1968

I share the shock of the nation upon learning of the killing of Dr. Martin Luther King. There is no excuse, no possible justification for this type of violence. I condemn this action and deplore the people who resort to violence — any violence.

Words at a time like this are inadequate to express the overwhelming horror of this senseless act. I can only say that I extend my deepest sympathy to the family of Dr. King.

TELEGRAM TO MRS. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

April 5, 1968

MRS. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
ATLANTA
GEORGIA

Please know that the State of Maryland shares your grief at this hour. The people have lost a strong voice of reason and hope at a critical time in our history. You and the children have my deepest personal sympathy and that of the citizens of our State. God bless you.

TELEGRAM TO SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP
CONFERENCE

April 5, 1968

Reverend Arthur A. Webb, Director
Southern Christian Leadership Conference
604 Mosher Street
Baltimore, Maryland

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the country have lost a great leader. I know, however, that you will continue and perpetuate the high principles established by Martin Luther King in his quest for racial equality through non-violent means. You have my deepest sympathy in your loss.

NEWS RELEASE AND STATEMENT:
STATE FLAG AT HALF MAST

April 5, 1968

Governor Agnew today ordered the Maryland Flag flown at half mast on all State buildings until after the funeral of Dr. Martin Luther King. The order became effective at noon.

"We take this action in respect for, and in sympathy with, the large masses of citizens of this State and this nation who shared Dr. King's dedication to racial equality and sought it through non-violent means," Governor Agnew said.

NEWS RELEASE AND LETTER SUPPORTING
FEDERAL OPEN HOUSING LEGISLATION

April 6, 1968

Governor Agnew today urged Maryland's congressmen to support Federal legislation which would outlaw discrimination in the sale, rental or advertising of housing.

The open housing section is embodied in a civil rights bill which has already passed the U. S. Senate.

"As you know, the Statewide Open Housing Law that we enacted last year has been petitioned to a referendum, thus delaying any further steps that can be taken in this vital area of concern to so many of our citizens," Governor Agnew said in a letter to the eight congressmen.

"The major hope now for these Maryland citizens lies in congressional enactment of an open housing law, and the fact that it has wider application than our limited State law makes it even more desirable.

"We would have attempted to expand the State law this year if such action had not been blocked by petitions from a small number of our citizens and by the ensuing litigation.

"I sincerely hope you will support the Federal legislation."

The proposed Federal law prohibits discrimination in government-financed housing and, after December 31, 1968, in other housing as well.

Exempted from the provisions are:

- single-family houses sold or rented by an owner who owns three or fewer such houses and who has sold no more than one such house, other than his own residence, in a two-year period.
- multiple-unit dwellings with four or fewer units, if the owner of such dwelling resides therein.
- housing owned and operated by religious and private organizations for noncommercial purposes.

ADDRESS TO CITIZENS OF MARYLAND ON BURNING AND LOOTING

April 7, 1968

We have taken the following steps to restore law and order in our State and you may be sure that the situation is under control and under constant vigilance of State and local authorities.

We have proclaimed a state of emergency in Baltimore City and Baltimore County.

A curfew has been imposed in Baltimore City from 4 p.m. to 6 a.m. and in Baltimore County from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m., except for officially approved emergency reasons.

I have ordered State offices in Baltimore City and Baltimore County closed at 2 p.m. tomorrow to comply with an early curfew — should that be necessary — and I have requested the business community to do the same. State employees who are residents of Baltimore City and County but who work in other subdivisions will also be released at 2 p.m.

Executive orders have been issued prohibiting the sale of alcoholic beverages, firearms, ammunition, flammable materials and liquids in Baltimore City and Baltimore County. The sale of alcoholic beverages is also banned in Anne Arundel and Howard Counties.

Every available unit of the Maryland National Guard has been fully mobilized and deployed within the City.

In addition, at six-eleven this evening, I requested Federal reinforcements to further secure the City. Attorney General Ramsay Clark agreed to immediately dispatch the troops. They should now be taking positions in critical areas.

These steps have been taken to control violence, save lives and property, and to bring about a swift restoration of order.

I want to commend the overwhelming majority of our citizens, white and black, who have remained calm in these hours of crisis. I ask you to continue this example, to remain at home and obey the curfew. Even during the daylight hours I strongly suggest limiting your activities so that your police, National Guard and Fire Department may perform effectively.

I urge all parents to exercise vigilance over their children. In the affected area much of the lawlessness to date has been caused by unruly and unsupervised youths. Other youngsters whose conduct has been responsible and admirable could be endangered even by the most innocent sightseeing.

To all who have been victimized, I pledge to you that all possible power will be exerted to restore order and security to your lives, and to assist those made homeless by fire.

To those few who loot and burn we shall show no sympathy, nor will we tolerate those few who would take the law into their own hands. We have local police, State Police and Federalized troops on the scene, in control, working effectively. We ask for no citizen volunteers, only common sense from our citizens.

While today we are pressed to confront force with force, to put down violence and douse fires, the lessons of these past hours have not been lost on any of us.

We know now as never before how vital is the law to our liberty.

We know now as never before that violence is no friend to freedom, and that the mob is no ally of civil rights.

We know now as we've always known that where rightful grievances exist, we must redress them with speed and compassion.

We know now that to move ahead we must never stand still. We must not stand still for a violation of our laws. Nor must we stand still for conditions which create hopelessness or despair.

We must press on, at once, for the good jobs, the good housing, the good education, for all those of our citizens who have been long denied these opportunities.

Let us rededicate ourselves to the unfinished business, not out of fear of reprisal but out of certain faith that it is right.

STATEMENT ON CONTROL OF LOOTING IN BALTIMORE

April 8, 1968

My office has received numerous inquiries today from citizens concerned about the widespread looting in Baltimore. I would like to clarify the lines of authority which govern the control of this situation.

With the Federalizing of the Maryland National Guard and the calling in of Federal reinforcements, all activities to control looting and other acts of civil disorder in the affected areas of the State are under the direct authority of Lt. Gen. Robert H. York. In addition to these military forces, State and local police involved in the effort to restore order are under his supervision.

I want to emphasize that the forces being deployed within the affected areas, especially the regular Army troops brought in yesterday and today, are thoroughly trained in riot control. They include veterans in combating the outbreaks of civil disorder that have occurred before in other cities and states.

I have been and will remain in close contact with the Attorney General of the United States, Ramsay Clark, and with General York, the commander in charge. I have every confidence in the willingness and ability of these Federal officials, and in our own State and Baltimore City forces, to put down this disorder as quickly as possible and with a minimum loss of life and property.

Our State and City commanders — Gen. George Gelston, Col. Robert Lally of the State Police, and Baltimore Police Commissioner Donald Pomerleau — are all working closely with the Federal commander.

Let us all remember that the control of instances of looting and other unlawful acts depends on the judgment of the tactical commander on the scene. We must make sure these officers are allowed to exercise this judgment without interference from anyone.

I have been assured that the resources required to restore order and stability to our State are at the disposal of General York, and there is no reason to doubt his intention to employ them decisively.

PRESS COMMENT ON FORMATION OF NEW
ROCKEFELLER GROUP

April 11, 1968

I have been too occupied with urgent affairs in Maryland the past two weeks to give any thought whatsoever to national politics, as important as that subject is to the citizens of our State.

Therefore, I have no comment at this time on the formation of the new committee to promote the candidacy of Governor Nelson Rockefeller for the presidency. I have stated repeatedly over the past year that I regard Governor Rockefeller as the best qualified possible candidate for the Presidency, but he has not yet declared publicly his willingness to actively seek the Republican nomination. Unless and until the situation develops further, I cannot actively associate myself with this effort or spend the time required on it.

STATEMENT AT CONFERENCE WITH CIVIL RIGHTS
AND COMMUNITY LEADERS, STATE
OFFICE BUILDING, BALTIMORE

April 11, 1968

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Hard on the heels of tragedy come the assignment of blame and the excuses. I did not invite you here for either purpose. I did not ask you here to recount previous deprivations, or to hear me enumerate prior attempts to correct them. I did not request your presence to bid for peace with the public dollar.

Look around you and you may notice that every one here is a leader — and that each leader present has *worked* his way to the top. If you'll observe, the ready-mix, instantaneous type of leader is not present. The circuit-riding, Hanoi-visiting type of leader is missing from this assembly. The caterwauling, riot-inciting, burn-America-down type of leader is conspicuous by his absence. That is no accident, ladies and gentlemen, it is just good planning. And in the vernacular of today — "that's what it's all about, baby."

Some weeks ago, a reckless stranger to this City, carrying the credentials of a well-known civil rights organization, characterized the

Baltimore Police as "enemies of the black man." Some of you here, to your eternal credit, quickly condemned this demagogic proclamation. You condemned it because you recognized immediately that it was an attempt to undermine lawful authority — the authority under which you were elected and under which you hold your leadership position. You spoke out against it because you knew it was false and was uttered to attract attention and inflame.

When you, who courageously slapped hard at irresponsibility, acted, you did more for civil rights than you realize. But when white leaders openly complimented you for your objective, courageous action, you immediately encountered a storm of censure from parts of the Negro community. The criticism was born of a perverted concept of race loyalty and inflamed by the type of leader who, as I earlier mentioned, is not here today.

And you ran. You met in secret with that demagogue and others like him — and you agreed, according to published reports that have not been denied, that you would not openly criticize any black spokesman, regardless of the content of his remarks. You were beguiled by the rationalizations of unity; you were intimidated by veiled threats; you were stung by insinuations that you were Mr. Charlie's boy, by epithets like "Uncle Tom." God knows I cannot fault you who spoke out for breaking and running in the face of what appeared to be overwhelming opinion in the Negro community. But actually it was only the opinion of those who depend upon chaos and turmoil for leadership — those who deliberately were not invited today. It was the opinion of a few, distorted and magnified by the *silence* of most of you here today.

Now, parts of many of our cities lie in ruins. You need not leave these City limits to verify the destruction and the resulting hardship to our citizens. And you know whom the fires burned out just as you know who lit the fires. They were not lit in honor of your great fallen leader. Nor were they lit from an overwhelming sense of frustration and despair. Those fires were kindled at the suggestion and with the instruction of the advocates of violence. It was no accident that one such advocate appeared at eight separate fires before the fire chief could get there.

The looting and rioting which has engulfed our City during the past several days did not occur by chance. It is no mere coincidence that a national disciple of violence, Mr. Stokely Carmichael, was observed meeting with local black power advocates and known criminals

in Baltimore on April 3, 1968 — three days before the Baltimore riots began.

It is deplorable and a sign of sickness in our society that the lunatic fringes of the black and white communities speak with wide publicity while we, the moderates, remain continuously mute. I cannot believe that the only alternative to white racism is black racism.

Somewhere the objectives of the civil rights movement have been obscured in a surge of emotional oversimplification. Somewhere the goal of equal opportunity has been replaced by the goal of instantaneous economic equality. This country does not guarantee that every man will be successful but only that he will have an equal opportunity to achieve success. I readily admit that this equal opportunity has not always been present for Negroes — that it is still not totally present for Negroes. But I say that we have come a long way. And I say that the road we have trodden is built with the sweat of the Roy Wilkinses and the Whitney Youngs — with the spiritual leadership of Dr. Martin Luther King — and not with violence.

Tell me one constructive achievement that has flowed from the madness of the twin priests of violence, Stokely Carmichael and Rap Brown. They do not build — they demolish. They are agents of destruction and they will surely destroy us if we do not repudiate them and their philosophies — along with the white racists such as Joseph Carroll and Connie Lynch — the American Nazi Party, the John Birchers, and their fellow travelers.

The bitterness of past and present days has been brewed by words like these:

We have to retaliate for the deaths of our leaders. The execution for those deaths will not be in the court rooms. They're going to be in the streets of the United States of America Black people know that they have to get guns.

—Stokely Carmichael: Washington, D. C., April 5, 1968.

And:

To hell with the laws of the United States Your brothers in the ghettos are going to wake up with matches . . . if a white man tries to walk over you, kill him . . . one match and you can retaliate. Burn, baby, burn . . . We're going to tear the cities up. . . .

—Stokely Carmichael: Miles College, April 4, 1967.

And:

Get yourselves some guns. The honky is your enemy. The brothers are now calling Detroit destroyed. You did a good job here. [This City's riot will] look like a picnic [after black people unite] to take their due.

—Rap Brown: Detroit, August 27, 1967.

And:

Black people are being forced to become both judge and jury. We must arm ourselves with rifles, shotguns, pistols, bow and arrows (with poison arrows), BB guns (with poison BBs), gas, rags, bottles and knives. The only way to get justice in this evil land is to kill the white devil before he kills you.

—Willard Dixon in a publication, "The Black Dispatch, a voice of the Black Ghetto."

What possible hope is there for peace in our community if these apostles of anarchy are allowed to spew hatred unchallenged?

If we are to learn from bitter experience, if we are to progress in the battle for equal opportunity, we must plan together and execute those plans together. To do this we must be able to communicate. We cannot communicate and progress if the lunatic fringes are included in the problem-solving team.

I publicly repudiate, condemn and reject all white racists. I call upon you to publicly repudiate, condemn and reject all black racists. This, so far, you have not been willing to do.

I call upon you as Americans to speak out now against the treason and hate of Stokely Carmichael and Rap Brown. If our nation is not to move toward two separate societies — one white and one black — you have an obligation, too.

I submit to you that these men and others like them represent a malignancy out of control; that they will lead us to a devastating racial civil war. I submit to you that there can be no winner from such a conflict and that the heaviest losers will be the Negro citizens of America.

It is not too late to return to the true target of the crusade for equality. The target is the elimination of all prejudice against Negroes in America and the provision of an equal opportunity to reach the top. That target will be realized when every man is judged on his own individual merit and only on his merit. Divisiveness and the doctrine of apartheid are impenetrable barriers between us and that target. With your help they can be torn down.

I am sure that these remarks come as somewhat of a surprise to you; that you expected nebulous promises and rationalizations and possibly a light endorsement of the Kerner report. This I could not do. Some hard things needed to be said. The desperate need to confront the problem squarely justified the political risk in saying them.

I need your help, but your help would be of little value if you did not know and subscribe to the objectives for which I seek it. We can do much together — little apart. Blind militancy must be converted into constructive purpose. This cannot occur so long as you or I condone or cling to racism, black or white. We do not deserve the mantle of leadership unless we are prepared to wear it proudly and, if need be, defiantly.

Above all, I believe you represent the views of the overwhelming majority of Maryland's Negro citizens — responsible, hard-working, decent people who are as horrified by the events of the past days as you or I. These are the people who will be unjustly victimized by a hardening of attitudes in the responsible, decent white community — white people who clearly repudiated racism in the 1966 election — white people who could normally be expected to endorse the 1967 open housing legislation on referendum this November.

My greatest fear is this polarization of attitudes as an aftermath of violence. Next I fear that we cannot endure continuous tension over the next months — that our community cannot live in constant fear that any irrational provocation may cause racial war.

Together we must work first to prevent polarization and second to reduce tension. I will need your vision and your voice. Now as never before your articulate, responsible leadership is needed. I am prepared to do whatever I can to aid the innocent victims of last weekend's rampage, to alleviate clear abuses and to enlarge opportunity within the inner city.

We must do this — as I said in my report to the people last Sunday night — “not out of fear of reprisal but out of certain faith that it is right.”

So let us begin to rebuild now — to rebuild our City and to rebuild the image of Baltimore. Let us work together — not as black and white — but as responsible citizens of Maryland who uphold the law; as concerned citizens who are united in their dedication to eliminate prejudice and poverty or any conditions which create hopelessness and despair.

Let us promptly and publicly renounce any who counsel or condone violence. Let us acknowledge that we have a real stake in our society. Let us proudly acclaim our patriotism and our recognition that no other nation in the world offers such opportunity. The fiction that Negroes lack any opportunity in this country is dispelled by the status of those of you in this room.

As Thomas Jefferson said, nearly two centuries ago, "With all the imperfections of our present government, it is without comparison the best existing, or that ever did exist."

NEWS RELEASE AND STATEMENT COMPLIMENTING MILITARY AND CIVILIAN UNITS IN HANDLING BALTIMORE DISORDER

April 13, 1968

Governor Agnew today complimented General Robert H. York and the military and civilian forces under his command for "the high standard of professional excellence they displayed during the recent events in Baltimore."

"The soldiers, who entered the City in the midst of rioting and disorder, combined firmness with restraint to restore order and enable the City to return to normal operations within a relatively short period of time," Governor Agnew said.

"They conducted themselves throughout the operation in a highly professional manner under extremely difficult circumstances.

"The citizens of Maryland are indebted to these troops and their commanders, and to our own Federalized National Guard forces who worked with them, for a job well done. We also deeply appreciate the equally professional performance of our City and State Police and Baltimore City firemen who did such a magnificent job under the trying conditions of the past week."

REMARKS NAMING THE GOVERNOR HARRY W. NICE BRIDGE, CROSSING THE POTOMAC RIVER, CHARLES COUNTY

April 15, 1968

Bridges are traditionally regarded as symbols of progress — the means to reach a better future and brighter hopes upon a distant horizon.

From the moment of its conception, this bridge crossing the Potomac became a tangible symbol of progress and faith in a better, brighter future.

This bridge — now over twenty-seven years old — represents Maryland's confidence in the future and our leadership's vision of what the future would hold.

We need only recall the time of its conception — the 1930's, the bleak decade of depression — to appreciate the extraordinary vision of Maryland's leaders.

In the year 1937 a feeling of economic apathy prevailed throughout the nation. Few could afford the luxury of cars or trips or travel. The State's total population was estimated to be little more than 1.5 million, while all the residents of Southern Maryland's counties combined numbered just over 40,000 people.

There was little indication for optimism and less incentive for ambitious investment schemes. There was little impetus to lift the economic lethargy. "Happy days" did not seem on the horizon. Yet in Maryland a handful of leaders knew what was to be and, even more important, what could be if proper plans and programs brought the necessary facilities to stimulate growth.

Their vision was nonetheless tempered with realism and with responsibility. They saw what needed to be done — and could only be done through State initiative, State planning and State funds. They recognized that there was risk, but without risk progress is rare.

This was the vision of experienced businessmen — the pragmatic view that economic growth could be positively developed — and a network of highways, bridges and tunnels was essential to generate economic growth.

Thus, in 1937 legislation was enacted authorizing the State Roads Commission to develop a comprehensive bridge and tunnel construction program financed wholly by the tolls. That legislation was signed into law by Governor Harry W. Nice.

A plan of awesome ambition emerged including spans crossing four of Maryland's waterways — the Potomac, the Susquehanna, the Patapsco and finally the ultimate — a dream of two centuries — a bridge linking the shores of the Chesapeake Bay.

The first priority was to create a national "north-south" highway — avoiding Baltimore and Washington traffic, cutting travel time and distance between Philadelphia and Richmond.

In 1938, the State Roads Commission, under Chairman J. Glenn Beall, gained the approval of the Federal government to begin work on the first two crossings and, even more important, gained Federal funds to finance 45 percent of the Potomac and Susquehanna Bridge costs. Both projects were begun in 1938 by the Nice administration and opened to traffic in 1940 by the O'Connor administration.

The Potomac River Bridge more than fulfilled the confidence of its advocates. The span immediately exceeded traffic use estimates, giving service to Maryland's citizens and impetus to economic growth in Southern Maryland. During the war it proved a vital strategic artery — as Potomac crossings had been in the times of Washington, of Lincoln and Lee.

For over two decades the Potomac River Bridge provided the only crossing of the Potomac between the District of Columbia and the Chesapeake Bay. Its popularity, sustained for many years, was diminished only when demand dictated additional facilities crossing the Potomac and these were free.

In renaming the Potomac River Bridge the Governor Harry W. Nice Bridge, we are honoring the man who led Maryland during this period. We pay tribute to a man who dedicated many years of his life to the service of his community and State. Governor Nice was a successful lawyer and a warm and vibrant personality. Above all it was Governor Nice who piloted Maryland through and out of the dark years of depression with good sense and a good heart.

While the bridge can only bear one name, there are others who should not be forgotten today. B. Howell Griswold, Jr., a Baltimore investment banker, directed the first blue ribbon committee to study the feasibility of State toll facilities and energetically led the citizens' lobby to enact this program. Dr. Abel Wolman, nationally renowned engineer, led the seven-member Bridge Supervising Committee which the 1937 Act empowered to approve the State Roads Commission's plans. The 1937 General Assembly authorized this far-reaching program, a program which was to become a model for subsequent highway construction and toll facilities development programs. Certainly as we focus upon the Potomac River span we must remember the special role of the Southern Maryland delegation. For these men argued cogently and fought tirelessly for this bridge to be the first bridge built in the four facilities program.

Today, while we name the bridge for one, we recall with respect the role of the many.

Today, with the appreciation only time and perspective can bring, we can *see* the progress they could only envision. Maryland's population has more than doubled, while Southern Maryland's has almost tripled. We claim a thriving economy — a State economy undoubtedly enriched by the improved access resulting from the 1937 Bridge and Tunnel program.

Three decades after Maryland's first toll facility legislation was enacted, the 1967 General Assembly authorized another bridge and tunnel development plan comparable and perhaps even exceeding its predecessor in scope and ambition. Today, as the present State Roads Commission prepares to launch the first phase of this program, it is good to be here, to see in the distance this bridge. It stands as a symbol that our action is not without precedent, our optimism is not without proof.

In renaming the Potomac River Bridge the Governor Harry W. Nice Bridge, we endow the bridge in name what it has long symbolized in spirit — a tribute to a time when progress was courageously forged by a leadership with vision and faith in Maryland's future.

NEWS CONFERENCE

April 18, 1968

OPENING STATEMENT

In anticipation of your questions regarding my response to public reaction following last Thursday's meeting, I wish to make this statement:

For the overwhelming number of thoughtful letters and telegrams, pro and con, from citizens of all creeds and races, I am profoundly grateful.

In response to the emotional charges that I am a bigot, I need only cite my record of unprecedented action through executive appointments, executive orders and new laws to assure equal rights and equal opportunities for all citizens. This record stands and it cannot be obliterated or obscured by reckless accusations.

I would like to reiterate my conviction that respect for the law is the path to orderly change and is the *only* answer to anarchy. *Only*

within the laws and the institutions of our democracy lies a meaningful redress of grievances.

As one who has taken an oath to uphold the Constitution and laws of this State I certainly do not intend to countenance or reward those who would defy them.

Violence, such as we have witnessed in Maryland in recent days, produces its own tragic answer. The innocent have suffered irreparable loss and no wrong has been corrected.

There are peaceful, constructive means available to us if we join together to pursue them. But in beginning such an effort we must reaffirm our allegiance to only lawful means and reassert our support of only lawful control and command. This, I believe, is the hope — *and the determination* — of the overwhelming majority of Maryland's citizens, black and white. I hope that leaders of the Negro community that I met with are willing to dedicate themselves to such an exclusively lawful effort. I hope that others will come forward, who have and can share that dedication with me. I will work with them.

Finally, I hold no rancor from the criticism and invective heaped upon me. The moment has come to move ahead. We cannot afford the luxury of idle debate. Present problems are too many and too complex. We must press for progress. Therefore, I do not intend to enter into further futile controversy by continuing to comment on this subject.

We have infinitely more important work to do and positive plans to prepare — plans outside the ken of the preachers of violence. All week, contrary to what you have assumed, I have been taking steps to reestablish communication with those who will work exclusively within the law.

I look forward to the response, to resuming the dialogue and to getting down to work.

In closing, let me repeat what I said last week to those who stayed to hear it.

Let us begin to rebuild now — to rebuild our City and to rebuild the image of Baltimore. Let us work together — not as black and white — but as responsible citizens of Maryland who uphold the law; as concerned citizens who are united in their dedication to eliminate prejudice and poverty or any conditions which create hopelessness and despair.

Questions and Answers

Q. Governor, you said that you were working all week to reopen communications. Have you set up another meeting with a group of Negro leaders?

A. There are many meetings that have been set and I don't want to go into the definition of each one at this point, but obviously there has been no breakdown in communications.

Q. Governor, if you had it to do over again would you have done it the same way?

A. I think the statement speaks for itself. I'll have to stand on the statement.

Q. That is, holding the meeting the way you did?

A. I won't comment outside the statement.

Q. Governor, in light of the favorable response and telegrams, do you still consider this a suicidal decision you have made?

A. I have no further comment beyond the statement I have just made on the subject.

(Bowie State College)

Q. Turning to another subject, Governor. You met for two hours with Bowie State College students. Could you tell us about the results of that meeting?

A. Well, I was greatly encouraged with the meeting. We had a very fine discussion of the problems that face the college and I think there was a great recognition on the part of the students that much of what hasn't been accomplished has not been because of the lack of appropriated money, but because of the lack of efficient use of what's been appropriated. Now this is not to indicate by any stretch of the imagination that there haven't been years and years of neglect of this institution. We are taking steps to correct these conditions as quickly as we can. Mr. Mester, the new Executive Secretary of the Board of State College Trustees, is working very closely with the students and with Dr. Myers and the faculty. I have made arrangements for him to keep in almost constant communication with the students so that they will be apprised of the progress that's being made.

Q. Will emergency funds be available for Bowie State?

A. As of the moment the funds that we have earmarked for Bowie State are no different than the ones that were earmarked at the time the troubles began — the \$335,000 of money already appropriated that

we are trying to expedite the spending of to show the quickest results we can. However, there is a possibility that we may in the near future within the realm of the existing college budget — State Board of Trustees budget — ask that certain reversions for the year be dedicated to the purpose of curing some very apparent problems at Bowie rather than simply reverting to the general fund.

(Kerner Commission Report)

Q. Governor, the Kerner Commission report says that it is of the "utmost importance" for governors and mayors to keep open lines of communication with Negro leaders, including specifically young militants. Do you take exception to that?

A. Well, I think militants fall into two categories. I have never found an accurate definition of the word "militant." If by militant you are simply being outspoken and aggressive and striving for what you think is necessary to effect reforms which you believe in, I have no objection to it. If by being militant you are talking about setting fires and looting stores, then I want no part, regardless of the Kerner Commission, of communicating with that type of militant. Now let me say this: the mere fact that someone may have espoused unlawful activity and been a militant, recognized in that sense, does not forever preclude him from coming into communication with this administration. If these people will recognize that the way to orderly change is through the law and will frankly come and ask for meetings with me in recognition and in dedication to using lawful means, I would not let the fact that they have previously stepped over the line interfere with my communicating with them.

Q. Do you concur, Governor, in the basic finding of the Kerner Commission that the cause of the riots last summer in America was the white racist attitude of our society?

A. Well, I don't think it's that simple. I think that this is a contributing cause. I think that black racism is another contributing cause. I wouldn't want to be placed in a position where I had to apportion the fault because that's impossible. But I'd say, as I said in my statement, and I'm not going back into the statement, but I think this is important to remember — that racism of either type is very harmful to our progress and very harmful to the accord that we need to get the job done.

(Baltimore Riots)

Q. Governor, do you feel that during the trouble in Baltimore Commissioner Pomerleau should have called for help sooner than he did?

A. Well, I wouldn't want to second guess Commissioner Pomerleau. I think he's one of the most efficient police officers I've ever encountered, and I have heard nothing but praise for the way he handled himself during the Baltimore situation. I'd like to add my public commendation and approbation to the work done by the Baltimore City police and the firemen who certainly did a fantastic job of containing a very difficult situation — to the State Police and to the National Guard.

Q. (Interruption.) Governor, in the aftermath of the riot, do you see any need for a special session to help the City of Baltimore?

A. I don't see any immediate need for a special session. We've been embarked on a course of attempting to help the City of Baltimore, that began soon after I took office, in the tax reform program and the additional money that went to Baltimore that year which consisted of some, as I recall, \$48 millions of additional money. We're trying as hard as we can to recognize the urban problem and help Baltimore; to help the entire State in the areas of redress to conditions of poverty and despair. I think the course that we've charted is a good course and a logical one and not one that we should necessarily amend, abandon, or in any way affect simply because of an incident or a series of incidents stimulated in the main part by people who don't believe in proper law and order.

(Request for Federal Aid to City)

Q. This morning at the Morris Mechanic Theatre Mayor D'Alesandro said that he was pressing ahead by requesting the Federal government to again declare Baltimore a disaster area. He was cognizant of your previous statement on this and said that he felt that if by application you kept up constant pressure, you might have some luck. Do you have any second thoughts about this?

A. Oh no, I'm interested in doing what we can in this regard, and as you have said, we are taking as many steps as we can to get the maximum possible assistance for the innocent people who have been damaged in the disturbances. So I will work with the Mayor — I want to say this — that in spite of the Mayor's disagreement with me over the course that I took last Thursday I still continue to have a great regard and respect for the Mayor, and we have talked since that time and we are not at odds with each other. I'm interested in doing whatever I can to make his administration a success.

(Mayor Daley's Riot Order)

Q. Governor, do you feel there is any merit in Mayor Daley's order to the Chicago police to shoot arsonists and looters?

A. I think it's an oversimplified reaction and an oversimplified approach. No one can make a judgment on what to do in a situation like that unless he is a professional who is on the scene in full cognizance of the surrounding situations. Now I would say, to use a couple of extreme examples: to shoot a 12-year-old child who is seen with a box of matches stopping near a building would be the height of complete callousness; I'd say on the other hand if a man had hurled a Molotov cocktail into a pile of gasoline-soaked rags in a building that was going up in flames, where there are people who are sleeping in that building, I wouldn't hesitate for a minute if I were a law enforcement officer to shoot him if he didn't stop on my command to stop. You can't just generalize this. The surrounding circumstances are the things that must govern.

Q. The main controversy concerns looters rather than arsonists.

A. Well, I think it would have to be a pretty extreme situation, and I doubt if I could visualize a situation right offhand that would justify shooting down someone who is taking a commodity out of a store. I think it's like killing an ant with an axe.

(Baltimore during the Summer)

Q. Governor, would you be willing to hazard a guess as to how Baltimore will rest through the rest of the summer after having gone through (interruption)

A. I have no idea. I have no idea of what will happen the rest of the summer. I can only hope that through the concentrated efforts of all those who are interested in avoiding other outbursts of violence we will be able to contain it. I am ready, willing, and able to work with anyone in this regard.

(Favorite Son)

Q. Governor, have you decided to be a favorite son candidate at the Republican Convention?

A. I haven't and other than what I read in the paper and heard from one or two leaders — I don't have any thoughts on it at the moment. No one is urging me — no great number of Republicans are urging me to do this.

(Rap Brown Return)

Q. Governor, Rap Brown is in Cambridge today. Have you taken any special precautionary steps to alert the State Police in the area?

A. No, the Attorney General's office has been in contact on a daily basis with the situation and they have kept me advised that the situation is under full control and everything's moving along satisfactorily.

Q. Do you think Mr. Brown will get a fair trial in Cambridge?

A. I have no way to know the answer to that question, but I do notice that certain people charged with law enforcement responsibilities in Cambridge think that he can and that might be enough to convince most people that he can't.

Q. Governor, along those same lines. A story in yesterday's paper said that his defense attorneys have requested a change of venue — possibly to Baltimore. In light of the disturbances last week, don't you think or do you think it would be a dangerous situation?

A. Well, I don't want to get into this area simply because it's a matter for the courts and a matter for the Attorney General's office and the local State's Attorney's office to decide. It's not a matter of executive decision and I think I'd be stepping out of line to attempt to pass judgments on these questions.

(Attorney General Legal Fees)

Q. Governor, there have been a number of reports lately that Attorney General Burch dispenses State legal work to members of his own party, which is not your party, of course. Do you approve of this kind of procedure using public funds to pay your political figures for legal work?

A. Well, in the first place I'm not sure that you can come to that conclusion as glibly as you just have. I don't see anything to criticize in what I have read that has taken place so far. I think as long as the fees paid are fair — as long as the attorneys are competent — I find nothing to criticize about the Attorney General's actions.

(Political Reaction to Baltimore Statement)

Q. Governor, a Washington newspaper has suggested that your remarks to the civil rights leaders did you some political good. Would you respond to that?

A. No, I would not care to make an analysis of that because I think — in the first place I don't think anybody can make that judgment

until after the next election and maybe not then because it is so far off. I have no idea whether it did me any good or whether it did me harm. All I can tell you is that certain of the reaction to them was very distressing to a person with a good record in civil rights. I don't want to go any further than that outside of the statement that I read.

(Rockefeller)

Q. Governor, there appears to be a new Rockefeller movement. Are you connected with it in any way?

A. Well, I've been a little busy lately. I try to keep in touch with what is going on in my party nationally, but I haven't been able to take an active part in anything.

(Aid for Small Businessmen)

Q. Governor, are you taking any steps to see if the State can in some way aid the small businessmen whose properties were destroyed in the riot?

A. Yes, we are taking those steps and we will have shortly an announcement of a series of steps which we are taking in this regard.

(Bowie Students)

Q. Governor, could we go back for a moment to Bowie? Has there been any discussion about dropping the charges?

A. This is not a matter for the executive to enter into and it's in the hands of the State's Attorney of Anne Arundel County and he will make the judgments. I have no thought of interfering with the process going ahead normally.

(Aid for Small Businessmen, Resumed)

Q. Can you elaborate on the series of steps you are taking to get aid for businessmen?

A. We have a press release prepared and I don't think I want to release it right now. I think it will be out very shortly.

(Rockefeller)

Q. Now that Governor Rockefeller may be reassessing his position, would you again be active in Maryland on his behalf?

A. It is difficult to say at this point. Obviously if I did become a favorite son candidate, and I have no way of knowing at the moment whether I will be, I would not be overtly active for any candidate. There's no way to tell at this point.

Q. Does that mean that you have cooled off on his candidacy?

A. No, it certainly doesn't.

Q. In the meantime, do you think the nomination is still open?

A. I think it's more open now since the withdrawal of the President than it's ever been.

(Interracial Commission)

Q. Governor, do you have any plans to replace Mr. James, the executive director of the State Interracial Commission?

A. No, that will be up to the Commission to decide.

Q. You make the appointment and they make the recommendation?

A. Yes. I would go with their recommendation.

(Militants)

Q. Governor, would you have any objections on restating your position on dealings with so-called militants. Frankly, we missed it the first time.

A. Well, it's hard to restate because I don't remember what the question was.

Q. I think the question had something to do with your barring militants from the previous meeting and (interruption)

A. Oh, I think I know what you want. The use of the word "militant" is sometimes misconstrued among people who think they understand it. There are militants who operate entirely within the framework of the law but are called militant because they are by language aggressive. There are militants who break the law. I would not preclude communication with militants who simply are characterized as such because they are strong spokesmen for their point of view and won't tolerate a person being against it without letting him know about it. I do not want to communicate with law-breaking militants. I feel, however, that if a militant has crossed the line of propriety on occasion and broken the law — that if he sees that this is not the way to get what he wants done — I wouldn't cut off the possibility of resuming communication with him if he assured me at that point that he intended to stay within the lawful process.

(Campaign for Proposed Constitution)

Q. Governor, what role will you play in the remaining weeks of the campaign for the Constitution?

A. As active a role as I can. I am most interested in the Constitution passing and I recognize that it's not going to be a cut and dried matter. I do think we've made great progress in the past several weeks in bringing the public's attention to the Constitution and the need for it. It's an excellent document. I'm sure that no one agrees with every sentence in it. I think that's too much to ask, but I think under the convention delegates' guidance — and they expressed a great many philosophies — we've come out with a good document. The passage of it by an overwhelming vote at the Convention is certainly a testimony to the good document that it is, and I hope the people will ratify it at the election in May.

(Budget)

Q. Governor, as you know there was some criticism at the recent session of the Legislature about some of your budget proposals. It didn't provide scholarships. It was also said by some legislators that you didn't work as closely with the budget director as you could.

A. Well, I didn't think those criticisms were ever justified. I have had some communications with the budget department. I think my relationships with the legislative leadership are good. I find no breakdown in communication anywhere at the moment. I look with no remorse on anything.

Q. Does Mr. Lauber need more time to devote to his surveys and studies?

A. Well, Mr. Lauber has been totally released for this purpose and I am dealing on budget matters directly with Mr. Slicher. Mr. Lauber has the full time to devote to this purpose.

NEWS RELEASE ON ACTION TO MEET CRITICAL PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH RIOTS

April 21, 1968

Governor Agnew announced today that President Johnson has approved his request for the establishment of a high-level team to efficiently marshal all Federal, State, and local resources to assure a rapid and orderly recovery from the riots in Baltimore. The team will be composed of a representative of the President, the Governor, and Mayor D'Alesandro.

The Governor's request to the President is one of a series of actions that he has taken in the continuing effort to meet critical problems which both caused and resulted from the rioting. The White House request was point one of a 10-point program which also includes the following:

2. To aid in the rebuilding effort the Governor has requested a complete report from the Federal Office of Emergency Planning on post-riot problems and solutions encountered in Watts, Newark, Detroit, and other communities which have been torn by riots.
3. In the effort to assure a rapid and orderly recovery the Governor said that he has been assured by Congressman Mathias that the Maryland Congressional delegation will move quickly on his request to amend the Federal Disaster Relief Act so riot areas can qualify for Federal assistance.
4. Special efforts are being made to meet the unique problems of young people in the inner city. In this area the Governor disclosed that he has directed his staff to meet with State College presidents and Dr. Wilson Elkins, the president of the University of Maryland, to prepare a recruiting program for Negro students to work on enrichment and tutorial projects in the inner city this summer.
5. Plans are being formulated to appoint a Governor's youth council composed of Negro student leadership to take over the direction of volunteer self-help and recreation programs in the ghetto areas. The council members will meet with the Governor on an informal basis throughout the summer to discuss problems and solutions.
6. The Governor has directed Mr. Christian Kahl, his Federal Manpower Coordinator, to review and reassess all present State employment programs to assure that prompt attention is given to the hard-core unemployed, the college graduate or skilled worker who may not be attaining full earning capacity due to discrimination, and veterans of Vietnam.
7. In response to major long-range problems the Governor has asked the Legislative Council to give priority consideration to two major administration proposals that were referred to the Council during the last session of the Legislature. One established a Statewide Housing Code, and the other created a State Housing

Authority to provide incentives for low and middle-income housing.

8. Members of the Governor's staff are presently exploring the feasibility of creating a reconstruction development authority empowered to deal promptly with all the problems of restoring a riot-destroyed area.
9. The Governor has proposed that the Division of Consumer Protection make increased efforts to investigate complaints of excessive usury and credit practices, unfair charges for check cashing services and disproportionately high prices for such grocery items as bread, milk and eggs in the ghetto area.
10. The establishment by State Insurance Commissioner Newton Steers of a Riot Recovery Program which includes:
 - 1) Four duty stations which have been set up, staffed by insurance advisors.
 - 2) Full priority being given to assist citizens in recovery claims.
 - 3) Meetings which have been set with insurance companies to expedite claims payments.

NEWS RELEASE ON EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF CIVIL DISORDERS

April 23, 1968

Governor Agnew announced today that he has directed Raleigh Hobson, Director of the State Department of Public Welfare, to use all possible resources to meet the needs of victims of the recent civil disorders in Baltimore.

Federal support is available for emergency help through the Welfare Department which includes:

- 1) Emergency financial aid, both grants and loans;
- 2) Medical care;
- 3) Social and legal services;
- 4) Home repairs for public assistance recipients.

In addition, emergency assistance to meet riot caused needs can be provided to families with children who do not otherwise qualify for Federal assistance, the Governor said.

The U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare has advised Maryland that emergency assistance is available, with the Federal government sharing from 50 to 75 percent of the costs of services provided by the State to emergency recipients.

At the same time, the Governor announced that he has directed the State Health Department to speed the processing and payment of all bills owed by the State to merchants in the ghetto areas.

Many of these businessmen whose stores have been destroyed have large amounts owed them because of their participation in such State programs as Medicaid. Under normal circumstances, several months might transpire before payment is made.

The Governor said that because of the severe hardship involved, the State will waive much of the complicated paper work involved in such transactions in order to speed up the payments.

"Our primary concern is to assist the innocent victims of the recent civil disorders in every way possible and as quickly as possible," Governor Agnew said.

NEWS RELEASE ON ACTION TO HELP SOLVE PROBLEMS OF THE GHETTO

April 25, 1968

Governor Agnew called today on Maryland's Negro college youth and returning Negro veterans of Vietnam to help solve the problems of the ghetto, which recently erupted into violence in Baltimore.

"If progress is to come in the next decade, we must begin with the young," he said in a memorandum to Dr. Gilbert Ware, his staff member in Human Relations, and a Negro.

"The problems, as you so well know, are awesome; the need for fresh vision and dialogue is imperative," he said. "Here we have to overcome not only the barriers of racial misunderstanding and economic deprivation but the very real gulf between generations."

The Governor proposed formation of a Governor's youth council, composed of Negro college students, "to advise us on the particular problems of the ghetto child and to serve as tutors and counselors." The council would, as other State commissions, be nonpaid but would be charged with marshaling self-help and recreation programs in ghetto areas.

The Governor, in issuing his appeal to youth, emphasized that they must work within the law.

"Needless to say, I am looking for the student leader, the excellent student, even graduate students, or successful young men and women in the community," he said. "While I am not opposed to including militants within the law, I obviously cannot work with those who would counsel or condone operating outside the law. This I do not mean in any narrow sense; it includes those who would advocate burning draft cards as well as cities."

The Governor said such a movement would bring "fresh, open minds to bear upon problems" faced unsuccessfully in the past by adult leaders, and also would "bring some of our youthful idealists face to face with the fiscal and political realities of such problems."

The result, he said, should benefit all of the citizens of the State, white and black.

In a separate memorandum, the Governor directed Christian H. Kahl, recently appointed Federal Manpower Coordinator for Maryland, to reexamine present programs and determine whether they are sufficient to meet hard-core employment in the ghetto, whether they provide equal opportunity to Negro college graduates and, particularly, whether they make a special effort to employ the skills of returning Negro veterans from Vietnam.

"Evidence from other cities indicates that, as teachers, recreation program leaders and police officers, the Negro Vietnam veteran has been found to establish almost instantaneous respect and rapport within the ghetto, especially among the young people," the Governor said.

"It is my hope that we will not fail any Viet vet, regardless of color," he said.

In addition to the staff memoranda, issued by the Governor before he departed on a brief vacation yesterday, the Governor's office released a letter from Governor Agnew commending a major drug firm which agreed to reimburse Baltimore pharmacists for uninsured losses incurred during the recent civil disorders.

"Your kind gesture made at this time will be an essential step in restoring the availability of vital pharmaceutical services to those affected by the recent disorders," he told the drug firm of Smith, Kline and French Laboratories and its subsidiary, Menley and James, which volunteered the offer in a telegram to the Governor.

The Governor also, in a separate letter to Norman Polovoy, assistant attorney general in charge of the Consumer Protection Division, requested that he investigate charges reported in news accounts of overcharges to ghetto residents.

"While such abuses may be proportionately small, these are just the type of social sore spots that can fester into full-scale malignancies," he said.

REMARKS AT PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION,
GOUCHER COLLEGE, TOWSON

May 3, 1968

The State of Maryland salutes Goucher College and celebrates the inauguration of its seventh president, Dr. Marvin Perry.

We recognize, with respect, the profound contribution Goucher has made to Maryland. Goucher has attracted outstanding young minds to Maryland — many of whom have stayed to serve their State as outstanding citizens. Goucher has brought a new dimension to the intellectual and cultural life of the Baltimore metropolitan community by welcoming the arts and the public to its campus. Goucher has been a leader in bold new approaches to higher education, developing undergraduate programs for those once thought too immature or too mature to benefit from the college experience.

As a private, consciously small college, Goucher has provided its students with a commodity *rare* today — the personal touch. And this emphasis on individual identity has paid off in unprecedented creativity.

Today marks another great step in Goucher's constant progress, the installation of a new president. I believe Goucher has found the perfect man to replace the perfect man — and there is no question that Dr. Kraushaar's administration is a hard act to follow. Yet Dr. Perry's nature and achievements prove a most graceful complement to Goucher's genius. Youth, scholarship, leadership, academic excellence, creativity and imagination characterize the man and the institution. Both are to be congratulated on this day when their destinies formally and fully unite.

Goucher has more than shared its gifts and its gifted with Maryland and Maryland is grateful. We keenly appreciate the special role of

the private college and the very special role of a women's college. In those words first said by Charles McIver, but so often said by Otto Kraushaar, "When you educate a man, you educate an individual; when you educate a woman, you educate a family."

The State of Maryland wishes Dr. Perry and his College Godspeed in their great work.

JOINT NEWS CONFERENCE ON THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTION

May 3, 1968

(Opening Comments by the Governor)

I think I've had what has to be considered one of the most unusual privileges ever afforded a Governor of Maryland today in that for the first time in my memory, and certainly for the first time in the fifteen months I have been in office, the heads of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government have met together to discuss one subject. And it may seem very unusual that without any difficulty we arrived at a unanimous conclusion that we were in support of the new Constitution. I have been empowered by Chief Judge Hall Hammond of the Court of Appeals, Senator James, President of the Senate, and Mr. Mandel, Speaker of the House of Delegates, to read this joint statement.

(Joint Statement)

As heads of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of the State government of Maryland, we have carefully examined the proposed new State Constitution which will be presented to the voters on Tuesday, May 14th.

We commend it most highly as a fundamentally sound instrument of government and urge that you vote in favor of ratification at the special election.

We believe the proposed new Constitution is an effective, workable and enduring answer to the many problems we now face in the administration of State government. It is far better than the present cumbersome Constitution, which has been amended more than 200 times since it was adopted in 1867.