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GOVERNOR AGNEW
MISUNDERSTANDS

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Many voices in Baltimore, including that of WJZ-TV, have warned that this is not the time for recriminations or over-simplifications in seeking out the origins and causes of the violence ~~of the past week.~~ The roots of these disturbances are so profound that no one is justified in pointing a finger of accusation.

moderately
Governor Agnew, ~~shaken~~ shaken by the events in Baltimore, has ^{most} fallen into the trap of over-simplification. He gathered together ~~of~~ of the city's moderate and responsible Negro leadership and, using insulting language, pointed the finger of accusation at them. He, in effect, accuses the moderates of knuckling under to the militants and ~~through~~ through their silence, contributing to the excesses of those who turned to violence.

It is no wonder that most of the Negro leaders present walked out ~~at~~ as the Governor was speaking. The things he said were not only insulting and unfair, but are not borne out by the facts. Some of the people in the Governor's audience had ^{all} literally risked their personal safety by going out into the streets to urge the young rioters to go home. ~~Two~~ ^{Several} of them came to this station to make a personal appeal on television.

Governor Agnew has done his State and Baltimore a disservice in three ways. First, by his oversimplification he has made responsible Negro leaders appear to be scapegoats for white racists who are all too happy to capitalize on his remarks. Second, he glossed over the complex origins of the riots. Lastly, he has divided the community when it needs to be united.

The irony is that the Governor intended to do just the opposite. Farther along in his speech there were some comments well worth making. But by that time, most of his audience had left. In the name of dignity they had no choice, ^{either} and now it is ~~the~~ Governor Agnew's task to regain their much-needed support, and help unite the communities.

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