

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.