

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.