

1819 Walnut Avenue  
Baltimore, Maryland  
21222  
April 13, 1968

Spiro T. Agnew  
Governor of Maryland  
c/o State House  
Annapolis, Maryland



Dear Governor Agnew:

Although I am a Democrat active in the affairs of my party I voted for you in 1966 in the belief that you would be the first genuinely progressive governor of Maryland within my memory. The source of this belief was your comparatively impressive record as Executive of Baltimore County. I had no reason to doubt my judgment until recent months.

My first disillusionment came with your handling of appropriations for state institutions of higher learning. You seem to fail to realize that at a time of rapidly expanding facilities for higher education the competition for quality college faculty is extremely intense. Furthermore, faculty salaries at the State Colleges are already substandard, and failure to even maintain this paltry relative competitive position might not only slow down the considerable academic progress these institutions have made in recent years, but might even reverse this progress. Although such an eventuality would not affect me personally, my doubts as to the future of higher education in Maryland has played some role in my decision to do my graduate work outside of Maryland.

I realize that there are many competing demands on the state budget and that those who make the demands are seldom satisfied. However, I understand that you and your representatives have flatly refused to even discuss with the faculties and/or students the reasons why the promises of your administration to higher education will go unfulfilled this year. Your statements regarding the recent demonstrations, i. e., that you would not yield to force, are sophistic. The only reason that these demonstrations have taken

place at Towson and at Bowie is that the normal channels of communication between the members of these two academic communities and the governor's office have been closed by yourself. These demonstrations are not manifestations of a spirit of lawlessness, but rather they are manifestations of frustration and of despair, of a feeling of impotence and of a feeling that the highest officials of the state are utterly indifferent of whether Maryland has a first rate or a fourth rate system of higher education. And let me add that Maryland is not in the near future in any danger of having a first rate system of higher education.

My second disillusionment was your recent statements on the causes of the riots. I was utterly shocked that a man of your apparent integrity would turn an opportunity for reconciliation into an opportunity to pass the buck. Although there may be some truth in the idea that some Negro leaders have been slow to condemn black racism, not a few public officials in our state have unofficially on numerous occasions taken advantage of white racism for political reasons. I have never heard these officials publicly criticized.

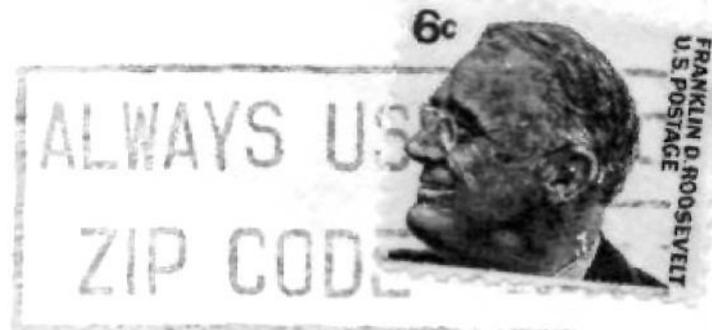
Furthermore, your boast that you thought you were committing "political suicide" when you made the statement on the riot would convince only the most naive observer of the Maryland political scene. Your cautious approach toward questions concerning race relations while you were County Executive was entirely justifiable, but your decision to cash in on hysteria is utterly inexcusable, aside from the fact that your allegations and insinuations are at best naive, and probably something much worse.

I hope that in the future I shall be vindicated in my original faith in your ability and honesty, but I am resigned to the probability that your administration will continue to destroy the hope that it once aroused in the hearts of responsible and concerned citizens.

Sincerely,

Stephen Goodell

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