## STATEMENT ON OPEN HOUSING LEGISLATION

### March 17, 1967

The open housing bill coming before the Maryland Senate for further debate, and a possible decision, this afternoon has my fullest support. It now substantially conforms to the position I took well in advance of the 1966 election and which I have consistently held to since then — namely, to outlaw discrimination in the sale or rental of new housing, whether new homes or new apartments. I urge its enactment by the Maryland Legislature and I intend to exert every possible effort this Administration can make to achieve this objective.

The amended bill represents to me a reasonable and realistic approach to one of the most critical problems facing our society, and I believe it will have general support from the public. It does not go as far as some would like in attempting to eliminate discrimination in housing, but it represents an important and significant start toward eventually winning broad public acceptance of this goal. At the other extreme are those who would do nothing for the minority groups now forced by custom and social mores to live in ghettoes and substandard homes.

I think the message from voters favoring a moderate approach to this vexing issue came through loud and clear in the 1966 elections. I strongly urge the members of the Maryland General Assembly to join me in carrying out this mandate.

## NEWS CONFERENCE

### March 20, 1967

Q. Do you have a statement, Governor?

A. Yes, I have a very brief statement, Mike. I believe from the way this legislative session is developing that the first Maryland reapportioned Legislature has an unprecedented opportunity to run up a record of very solid achievement in its very first session. I'm most impressed by the way the important legislation is moving in both houses and I want to publicly commend Speaker Mandel and President James for a great degree of know-how, a forthright approach, certainly one of the finest and most dexterous bit of maneuvering I've seen in my political experience: maneuvering that has been for the