

government of that same America is itself yearning—this time for young leadership, fresh enthusiasm, and inspired commitment. The Graduate Corps is one step in the right direction. The work of the Jaycees is another. But the willingness of *more* young men to serve—upon this rests the cause of our country and its continuing claim to greatness.

I welcome you to Maryland and, on behalf of its citizens, I thank you for bringing the drama and excitement of your convention to our State.

NEWS CONFERENCE ON PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS

June 27, 1967

OPENING STATEMENT BY THE GOVERNOR

It is regrettable that the Baltimore City Council adjourned for the summer last night without adopting an ordinance which would have prohibited discrimination in taverns on grounds of race, religion or national origin. The Baltimore City Liquor Board, on the other hand, is to be commended for stepping into the situation last Friday and taking independent action with an administrative order.

I have always been flatly opposed to artificial barriers of discrimination in places of public accommodation. A business whose prosperity is dependent upon the patronage of the general public has no right to deny any segment of the general public access to accommodations without good cause. This applies to a tavern as much as it does to a restaurant, or a bowling alley, or a hotel or a skating rink. The present law admitting Negroes to some bars, while excluding *them* from others, is an affront to the community.

At the next session of the Maryland General Assembly, my administration will sponsor legislation to specifically include taverns in the statewide public accommodations law. A move in this direction was made at the last session but the provision was compromised out of the bill before it ever became an issue, and it was *not brought to my attention* as a matter needing urgent support. Its importance has now become dramatically clear.

Meanwhile, I would hope that taverns throughout Baltimore, and in other sections of the State, would voluntarily accord equal rights to all citizens as do other places of public accommodation. And I