

further from the truth. These misunderstandings, plus possibly an impatience with the fact that they would like to see more Negroes appointed to key positions, were the basis of their visit. I think we had a good interchange of information, and I think they went away reassured to some extent that this administration was and remains dedicated to produce civil opportunities for all our citizens of all races, creeds and religious affiliations.

Q. Governor, when you began your administration you hired Dr. Ware, and we had the impression that it was to keep these lines of communication open. What is the story there, sir?

A. Well, the communications that I'm speaking of aren't satisfied by simply having some other person in touch. The people want to be in personal and direct touch with me and because of the demands of the office, the sessions, the special sessions, the Constitutional Convention and myriad other things, I have not been able to meet with them personally.

Q. Has Dr. Ware met with them?

A. Oh yes, he's been in touch with them.

Q. Are you going to make renewed efforts to get some Negroes in key positions?

A. Well, I'm going to continue the course we have already charted, and that is wherever it is possible to provide opportunity to our Negro citizens, those that are qualified will be appointed. On the other hand, as I explained to the ministers yesterday, the mere fact that I replace a Negro on an existing board, commission or existing position doesn't necessarily mean that I'm committed to appoint another Negro to that position. I want to get the best people in the jobs that can handle them most adequately, and I'm going to continue to work in that direction. I am interested, as my previous appointments have already shown, in appointing qualified Negroes to key positions.

Q. In that regard Governor, Mayor McKeldin of the City of Baltimore has suggested that the Civil Service Commission make its examinations for jobs requiring exams a little bit easier. How do you feel about the examinations in the State?

A. I think this would be a disservice. I don't believe that we should arbitrarily force a person to qualify a person for a job he can't handle. This will just cause additional trouble when it becomes necessary to remove that person because of the nonperformance of the job. There