

are plenty of qualified Negroes who can meet the existing standards. There is no need to weaken the standards and to create an artificial compliance with the laws that are on the books. We must continue, however, our efforts to provide the greatest possible education for those who want to take these jobs. This should be the thrust of our whole governmental effort, to provide education so that more people will be able to qualify for the positions that are open.

Q. Governor, your new Correction Commissioner, Mr. Cannon, has been saying some very controversial things. Are you forcibly behind this?

A. I haven't heard him say anything that appeared controversial to me, yet.

Q. Well, this week for instance he was talking about the rehabilitative work programs in prisons and money to produce them. He was saying that if the program is not rehabilitative, he would rather not see the State invest money in it.

A. I don't think that's controversial. I agree with him 100 percent. Mr. Cannon has been placed in that position to upgrade Maryland's Correctional System, which certainly needed upgrading. He's got my full support. He's got total, I won't say autonomy, but he's got total responsibility to move and innovate in any way he wants to. I'm not going to put any reins on him. I went out and found the best man we could for Maryland to do this job and it would be ridiculous now to try to tell him how to run it. If I were going to tell him how to run it, I shouldn't have gone out and gotten him and I should try to do it myself.

Q. Governor, did the administration make any effort, before it reappointed Allan Housley to the Building, Savings and Loan Department, to determine whether the other four persons who were mentioned by the governing body of that department as potential candidates, was any effort made to determine whether any of them wanted the job?

A. No, but this was done because of my cognizance of that accusation with regard to the other people on the list. I talked with Mr. Housley in quite some detail, and I also talked with people who were connected with businesses that are affected by that regulatory agency and people who work in other agencies with Mr. Housley, and I satisfied myself that he's doing an excellent job. I have received more letters of commendation in regard to Mr. Housley since I have been in office than any other official in the government.