

some extent this thwarts the entire purpose of my asking Mr. Wilkins here. It thwarts it because in my admiration for his efforts in civil rights, *the responsibility of his pronouncements, and his outstanding leadership*, I did not want to react or show any reaction to action that was taken — that I consider to be unfortunate and not in the best interest of both the white and the Negro communities. I wanted to have Mr. Wilkins here to show him that we, the white citizens of this country and particularly those of us in positions of political leadership, do appreciate the kind of guidance that his organization and he, individually, is offering. I wanted to show that we can make efforts and make progress to afford equal rights for all our citizens — not because we are worried about some outburst that is taking place, but because we want to do something on our own initiative once in a while without the dramatization of turmoil. Unfortunately, we have had these riots and there will be those who will say that Mr. Wilkins has been invited here to put out a potential fire in Maryland. I am sure that he can assure you that this is not the case. We have had some very fruitful discussions. We have talked about the needs of education and job opportunities, *the needs in the housing area and accommodations*, and we have covered the gamut of the entire spectrum of the problems that beset our country in its failure to afford civil opportunity to all our citizens. We have some pretty good ideas about how to proceed and I certainly want to express to you, Sir, my very deep appreciation, in spite of your very heavy schedule and in spite of some persistent requests that you yield to a more immediate need than this meeting, that you did come here and spend this time with us. I feel reassured by my conversations with you, and I just want to urge the Maryland community, white and Negro, that this is the kind of leadership that we have got to follow if we are going to achieve what we are really setting out to do.

MR. WILKINS:

Governor Agnew, I want to thank you for the invitation. I certainly think I can put a date on the first exploration for this meeting — it was something like June 4th or 5th — long before our Boston convention, and certainly no one had in mind what happened in New Jersey. As I recall your letter, it was to explore the situation in Maryland with a view toward some affirmative action while things were quiet, and as a policy of the State and not a policy engendered or stimulated by violence. I am very happy to be here and to learn what is being done in Maryland. Of course, you were the first to state that all is not as it should be, but the State is working on these problems. I took the liberty of suggesting, Sir, both today and in my com-