

munication to you that problems exist in the business of employment among Negroes and especially in the lower echelon, in the building trades, in the State Highway Department and in all the ramifications of State employment, but especially with respect to contracts and contractors and Federal monies. A recent decision in Columbus, Ohio, had held that the State, as a signatory to a contract — the Governor and other responsible State officials — had the *prime* duty, not the *secondary* duty, to determine that the people with whom they signed the contract did not discriminate in their employment policies. The ruling there in Columbus was that a \$12,800,000 medical building could not be built on the campus of Ohio State University by the State of Ohio because the contractor did discriminate, and I suggest that this decision in Ohio might be helpful in Maryland, although it is not binding upon Maryland, that its lawyers, its Attorney General and others might want to study. I think the time has come for us to realize that while we need not be headstrong and headlong in our actions, there is an urgency in this Negro-white problem, and in spite of all the surface indications of arrogance and bigotry on the part of both Negroes and whites, that the root of correction lies in better schools, better jobs, better housing, better administration of justice all along the line, with particular emphasis on police-community relations. It would be my hope that Maryland, which has been proud of its title as the "Free State of Maryland" and which has had more than its share of individualists in the United States, might be the one to show the way in many of these areas. Thank you for inviting me, Governor.

GOVERNOR AGNEW:

Nice to have you, sir.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS:

QUESTION: In the light of what Mr. Wilkins was just saying, Governor, Mrs. Mitchell said in the afternoon papers that the State is rampant with discrimination in both hiring and promotion of employees. Do you have any comment?

GOVERNOR:

One of the things that we are most interested in working toward is the removal of all discrimination in the State of Maryland, and I mean all the discrimination. Dr. Ware of my staff is presently engaged in working up a "Code of Fair Practices," a set of regulations to be used by the executive branch, and hopefully by all branches of the government, to be sure that discrimination is removed wher-