

ever it exists. I for one won't be satisfied until it is totally removed. I certainly believe that there is some discrimination in the State government. I don't fault Mrs. Mitchell's finding in that respect. Whether it is as serious as she indicates will be revealed by a very impartial and exhaustive examination by Dr. Ware in this regard. I expect to have some results very soon. On contracts that Mr. Wilkins mentioned, we are most interested in seeing that discrimination on the part of those who benefit from government contracts is removed and we are taking steps in that regard. We have already taken steps to make certain that there is a fairer representation on the draft boards. I think out of the last 15 appointments, the only 15 that I have made (recommended to the President), over one-third have been Negroes.

QUESTION: Governor, the Legislature at the last session defeated a bill that would accomplish what Mr. Wilkins has achieved in Columbus, Ohio. Are you considering issuing an executive order that might achieve the same thing?

GOVERNOR:

I am considering doing that if I think it's a valid device that will stand up. On the other hand, I think it should be done by legislation, if practicable, simply to reflect the policy of the State, and I will offer such legislation again at the coming session — irrespective of whether we will be able to move forward in certain areas by executive order or not.

QUESTION: Well, sir, is there a possibility for an interim executive order?

GOVERNOR:

It definitely exists.

QUESTION: Governor, I wonder if Mr. Wilkins will tell us if this conference is unusual and if other governors have requested similar conferences with him with no immediate pressure to do so?

MR. WILKINS:

Well, it's the first conference of its kind, but I honestly can't say that it is unique. Governor Agnew was the first governor to suggest this voluntarily — with no pressures at all — not from Mrs. Mitchell or a State organization or anyone else. We have had responses from governors all over the country in respect to the Columbus, Ohio, thing which I used as a broadcast letter to governors themselves, indicating that they would like to discuss this matter and others in their state, but no one went as far as Governor Agnew, nor as promptly or as quickly. As a matter of fact, his letter came before the Columbus,