

MR. WILKINS:

Yes, I'll be very glad to speak about that particular sentence. That sentence did not say that any of the — if you go back and read it again — it did not say that the Mayor of Newark started the riot. It said that he has ignored advice from the Negro community on an appointment to the Board of Education, and that the housing situation in Newark was terrible, which it is. The percentage of substandard housing occupied by Negroes in Newark is something like the third highest in the United States. This does not say that they started the riot, but it says that they made no effort to correct conditions that contribute to unrest and dissatisfaction that finally could be triggered into a riot. I would like to have you read that resolution and be careful about saying that the NAACP had adopted a resolution which said that the Mayor started the riot. Don't use such shorthand. That's too short.

QUESTION: Mr. Wilkins, have you been in Baltimore recently or have you firsthand knowledge of conditions in Baltimore? Are you competent, and if so will you assess Baltimore's flashpoint?

MR. WILKINS:

I will not assess the Baltimore flashpoint because I don't think I know enough about Baltimore's flashpoint. I didn't come here to talk about Baltimore's flashpoint.

QUESTION: Governor, what is your reading about the Baltimore and Eastern Shore problems?

GOVERNOR:

I am glad you asked me that question because I don't think there is any such thing as a "flashpoint." I believe that the talk about a flashpoint and a "dynamite situation" and the preoccupation of people who reflect this point of view can cause more trouble than anything else that would trigger a riot. The people are malleable and in a constant state of flux, and they are not interested in rioting for the sake of rioting. But when the suggestion is constantly made that there is a flashpoint, that we're living in a room full of volatile fumes that a single match can ignite, is repeated and reiterated over and over again, you have too many people believing it and you can cause riots with that kind of philosophy.

QUESTION: Governor, as a result of your meeting with Mr. Wilkins, have you made plans to do anything specific?