

GOVERNOR:

The only thing that we have decided to do is to keep doing what we are doing and to move forward as quickly as we can in all areas to remove discrimination in our State. We have also decided that it is important for the leadership in government to reflect its appreciation of the proper leadership in the civil rights movement, the responsible leadership. And I don't say that Mr. Wilkins is the only responsible leader. There are others doing a wonderful job in this area, not only in the NAACP but other organizations. But I think it's time for the white community and it's time for the Negro community to assess the civil rights leadership on an individual basis and not simply say the Negro leadership. There is no such all inclusive term as the Negro leadership or the white leadership. We have got to do it on individual assessment.

QUESTION: Governor, would you include Mrs. Mitchell among those responsible leaders in Maryland?

GOVERNOR:

I think Mrs. Mitchell has done an excellent job, and most of her good work and the toughest part of her job was done at a time when she bore the brunt of what she had to do singlehandedly. Sometimes Mrs. Mitchell becomes impatient with the speed at which government is moving, and we had some long conversations on that. But I think in the majority of instances she approves of what is taking place, and I can't blame her for wanting to see the achievement immediately. We are moving as quickly as we can and will continue to move.

QUESTION: Governor, she said this morning that she agreed with the Ministerial Alliance that there was a lack of communication flowing out of the Governor's office to the Negro community. Do you plan to take any specific steps so that you will get an ear-to-the-ground so to speak?

GOVERNOR:

Let me say, in response to that, it is not only in the area of civil rights and civil opportunities that the Governor's office is not able to communicate as well with the total sector of the State as it would like to. There is always criticism. We are a State of almost 4 million people — we are approaching that figure — and the Governor can't talk to everybody as frequently as he would like. So we have this criticism — not just in the field of civil rights but in every field where citizens are interested in some cause or objective. We are going to try