

people of a State are entitled to a clear and direct statement of their Governor's position. This is such a statement.

In the first place, it is evident that there is ample cause for unrest in our cities. There is still discrimination and, in too many cases, there are deplorable slum conditions. Our Negro citizens have not received, and in many cases are not receiving, equal educational, job and housing opportunities. The gains recently made, while good, are not enough.

I believe that responsible militants within the Negro leadership should use every means available to place legitimate pressure on those in authority to break the senseless and artificial barriers of racial discrimination. But legitimate pressure — the power of the vote, the power of organized political, economic and social action — does not give any person or group a license to commit crimes.

Burning, looting, and sniping, even under the banner of civil rights, are still arson, larceny and murder. There are established penalties for such felonies, and we cannot change the punishment simply because the crime occurred during a riot. The laws must be consistently enforced to protect all our people. If any angry man burns his neighbor's house, or loots his neighbor's store, or guns his neighbor down, no reason for his anger will be enough of an excuse.

In Maryland, rioting or inciting to riot, no matter what wrong is said to be the cause, will not be tolerated. There are proper ways to protest and they must be used. It shall now be the policy in this State to immediately arrest any person inciting to riot and to not allow that person to finish his vicious speech.* All lawbreakers will be vigorously and promptly prosecuted.

Acts of violence will not be later forgiven just because the criminal after a while adopts a more reasonable attitude. The violent cannot be allowed to sneak unnoticed from the war dance to the problem solving meeting. No, the problem-solving conference must be reserved for those who shun lawlessness, who win their places at the conference table by leadership that builds rather than destroys.

The problem-solving must be done by constructive militants such as the Wilkinses, Kings, Youngs and Randolphs—not by the Carmichaels, Joneses and Browns. But it should include the younger responsible

*See also, below, letter of August 21, 1967, to Colonel Robert J. Lally, Superintendent, Maryland State Police.