

## NEWS CONFERENCE

October 26, 1967

## OPENING STATEMENTS BY THE GOVERNOR

I would like to clear up at the outset of this news conference a misunderstanding that arose last week regarding the accessibility of Government House to the general public. It occurred while Mrs. Agnew and I were away for the National Governors' Conference, and since the press helped us get into this jam, I would appreciate it very much if you would help us get out of it.

First of all, there is no charge to visit Government House and there never has been, to my knowledge, under any governor. Mrs. Agnew and I have made it a practice to open the mansion to the public twice a week — every Tuesday and Thursday between 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. We have only one request: that arrangements be made in advance so there can be someone available to show visitors through the public rooms. While I make no claim that a man's home is his castle, I do believe that even a governor is entitled to some privacy for himself and his family.

The misunderstanding last week arose from our trying to be helpful to Historic Annapolis, Incorporated, a nonprofit preservation society which was conducting tours of old homes in the city. We acceded to their request that Government House be added to their Sunday tour as an extra attraction, the same as it is on the House and Garden Pilgrimage each year. The price of \$3.50 was the price of the entire tour ticket, not the admission to Government House. No tickets were sold at Government House and no money was collected there.

The public is welcome any Tuesday and Thursday, but we would appreciate arrangements being made in advance.

The second subject I would like to touch on, before we go into question and answer, concerns the action taken collectively at the recent National Governors' Conference by the Republican governors. I refer specifically to the Vietnam resolution that was presented to that conference but was procedurally killed by action of the Republican governors acting in concert.

First of all, I want to emphasize that my position as an individual in support of President Johnson remains consistent and probably even stronger than ever. I fully endorse what the President is doing with regard to the Vietnam war. But my position as an individual does not