

A. That is true. I have not made this proposal nor have I suggested it in any fashion.

Q. Governor, what kind of political climate did you pick up on your western tour?

A. Well, actually, there's a great deal of interest in the coming Republican Governors' Conference and in ascertaining whether there will be any candidate development done at that time. I've tried to indicate my feeling that it's unlikely that a great amount of information is going to come out of this conference, at least information that will be publicized. I don't think anything much is going to develop until some of these primaries are run.

Q. At your last press conference you indicated that you thought that Governor Rockefeller was using the right strategy as far as candidacies were concerned. Do you still feel that way?

A. Yes, I do, and I think he means it when he says he's not a candidate. The only type of candidacy that we can assume he's referring to is the candidacy for the nomination. Now if he's offered the nomination without becoming a candidate, he is technically accurate in saying he's not a candidate.

Q. Governor, apparently the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee is going to set up shop here after the first of the year. How do you feel about this? What are your thoughts on this possibility?

A. I'd have to ask who the leaders are today. I've never really been able to ascertain whether this organization has functioned in any sense of continuity. I know they had Mr. Brown for awhile, they had Mr. Carmichael for awhile and I made it completely clear that I do not respect this type of leadership, nor will I deal with this type of leadership under any circumstances. If they come up with leadership of a type that is willing to be reasonable and responsible, I certainly wouldn't foreclose the possibility of listening to these people and discussing problems with them so long as they have embarked upon a course that I consider — that is reasonable. I think I made this clear in my discussions with Mr. Gant of CORE. Previously some of the CORE leadership wasn't exactly amenable to a discussion or a problem solving session; with Mr. Gant it apparently is. And my meetings with him were good meetings. I'm willing to keep on investigating the possibilities of communicating and assisting civil rights leaders as long as the purposes that they are there to talk about are the ones that are in the interest of the people of the State and not calculated to inflame and disrupt civil order.