

A. I assume that being a knowledgeable law enforcement officer of years and years of experience, he is doing everything that can be done to stop illegal gambling in Maryland. I think it's been made completely clear — all you have to do is look at the stories that have broken in recent weeks about illegal gambling and about its connections with illegal activities such as attempted influencing of legislators downstairs — I think it's perfectly clear that a very bad section of the community is involved in the background in the pinball industry, and while I wouldn't condemn everyone who has a pinball as being a part of this particular community, I think they are unwittingly cooperating with the underground, with the underworld, in these efforts.

(Civil Disorders)

Q. Governor, two bills on the Senate floor recently [garbled] civil disorders.

A. Well, I think if there's been any merit to the contentions of those parenthetical remarks that were made by one or two people, it's brought out by the fact that members of their own party present when those remarks were made castigated them and told them to leave politics out of that particular consideration. I think also that the way Cambridge was handled is not open to criticism. I was on the scene within hours of the time the problem broke. The Attorney General and the Commander of the National Guard were on the scene before it broke. The State Police director was on the scene before it broke. At the time immediately after the Cambridge uprising, no criticism was made of any specific lapse on the part of any State official in handling it, so why after several months have gone by and memories have become fuzzy, why this very subtle attempt to create an aura that something was lacking in the handling of Cambridge? I say to the Senators that make these criticisms, "stop hinting and say what was done wrong." They can't and they won't.

Q. Do you think then that new laws are necessary?

A. New laws are necessary to facilitate the handling of the riots. These new laws have been introduced and successfully enacted in many, many other states that have had civil trouble. They are there to facilitate the Governor's authority to move quickly and expertly when trouble does occur. They are supported by General Gelston, they are supported by the Attorney General's office, and they are not partisan legislation. Now the attempts of a few isolated members of the General Assembly to use this as political capital are reprehensible and not in the best interests of the safety and order of the State.