

an excuse for breaking the law. The law is clear — the statute contained in Article 27, Section 577A, of the Public General Laws of Maryland, states as follows: “Any person refusing or failing to leave a public building or grounds, or specific portion thereof, of a public agency or public institution during those hours of the day or night when the building, grounds, or specific portion thereof, is regularly closed to the public, upon being requested to do so by a regularly employed guard, watchman or other authorized employee of the public agency or institution owning, operating or maintaining the building or property, if the surrounding circumstances are such as to indicate to a reasonable man that such person has no apparent lawful business to pursue at such place, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not more than \$1,000, or imprisoned for not more than six months, or both, in the discretion of the court.”

I want to say that I consulted the Attorney General about this law before I took the action I took in making these arrests, and he concurs with me that the arrests are proper. I'm ready for your questions.

Questions and Answers

Q. Governor, who are these outside agitators — outside influences — these dangers that you spoke of?

A. Well, I think you know them as well as I — you've seen them functioning. I'm referring to certain members of the NAACP. A Mr. Brown, I think, is the name of one. I'm referring to the Howard University students, who have no business on the Bowie State campus. It wasn't a social visit they made; it was a visit for the purpose of causing this disturbance. Those are outside influences. I don't consider them to be good outside influences. Mrs. Rice from the Prince George's County NAACP. I've had other wires from other individuals whom I won't bother to designate at this moment.

Q. Governor, closing Bowie State College — what will this do to the dormitory students at the school? Will they have to find lodging elsewhere?

A. That's exactly right. Again, I'm sorry that people have to be inconvenienced, but a very broad question of the protection of public property is involved in this decision. And I emphasize that this is not done for the purpose of punishing; it's done for the purpose of securing public property.

Q. How long will they have to get out of the dormitories, Governor?