

we are trying to expedite the spending of to show the quickest results we can. However, there is a possibility that we may in the near future within the realm of the existing college budget — State Board of Trustees budget — ask that certain reversions for the year be dedicated to the purpose of curing some very apparent problems at Bowie rather than simply reverting to the general fund.

(Kerner Commission Report)

Q. Governor, the Kerner Commission report says that it is of the “utmost importance” for governors and mayors to keep open lines of communication with Negro leaders, including specifically young militants. Do you take exception to that?

A. Well, I think militants fall into two categories. I have never found an accurate definition of the word “militant.” If by militant you are simply being outspoken and aggressive and striving for what you think is necessary to effect reforms which you believe in, I have no objection to it. If by being militant you are talking about setting fires and looting stores, then I want no part, regardless of the Kerner Commission, of communicating with that type of militant. Now let me say this: the mere fact that someone may have espoused unlawful activity and been a militant, recognized in that sense, does not forever preclude him from coming into communication with this administration. If these people will recognize that the way to orderly change is through the law and will frankly come and ask for meetings with me in recognition and in dedication to using lawful means, I would not let the fact that they have previously stepped over the line interfere with my communicating with them.

Q. Do you concur, Governor, in the basic finding of the Kerner Commission that the cause of the riots last summer in America was the white racist attitude of our society?

A. Well, I don't think it's that simple. I think that this is a contributing cause. I think that black racism is another contributing cause. I wouldn't want to be placed in a position where I had to apportion the fault because that's impossible. But I'd say, as I said in my statement, and I'm not going back into the statement, but I think this is important to remember — that racism of either type is very harmful to our progress and very harmful to the accord that we need to get the job done.

(Baltimore Riots)

Q. Governor, do you feel that during the trouble in Baltimore Commissioner Pomerleau should have called for help sooner than he did?