

SPECIAL NEWS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING MEETING
WITH MARYLAND STATE COLLEGE STUDENTS

May 21, 1968

My past relationships with Maryland State College have been exceptionally pleasant. And because of that, when I heard there was unrest on the campus — a problem in Princess Anne — I immediately decided to ask the students themselves to come to Annapolis at my invitation to discuss some of the problems with me. We've just concluded what I consider to be one of the most productive meetings that I've ever been in, and I want to say this: that at a time when most of us have been so terribly concerned over the violence over the attitudes on college campuses, in one short meeting my faith in the young people of this country has been restored. My confidence has been heightened to a degree I didn't believe possible. And I find myself with a tremendous desire to work for these legitimate objectives that these students have put forward to me. They put them forward in a completely reasonable manner. They have accepted my observations on what I intend to do to assist them in solving these problems, and they have not made unreasonable requests upon the administration.

But I think the most important thing that these students did for me today was to believe me. And this is an exception on today's market when you're in public office dealing with problems of unrest on the campus. We have agreed to form a joint committee consisting of a few students and a few members of my staff, and they will start tomorrow to try to reach solutions to these problems. I am encouraged that some of the things can be done very quickly; others will require the assistance of the good people of Somerset County, and I'm certain that we will be able through the business and political community of that county, if we work together in good faith, to reach a solution to these problems and to restore a balance and a degree of calm in the community.

Questions and Answers

Q. Governor, what objectives did you discuss?

A. We discussed some of the on-campus objectives that relate to the physical facilities. I had a chance to review with them my previous meeting this year with the Alumni and what had come out of that. We discussed improvements to a road. We discussed the possibility of additional lighting on the campus. We discussed other physical