

A. I didn't ask. The demonstrations thus far have been entirely orderly. I'm hopeful that they may not find a need to demonstrate further if we go to work promptly on the problem because I think that calm can best be restored without the demonstrations. But I certainly didn't make any requests of them. I'll leave it to their good judgment as to what they should do in that regard.

Q. Governor, is it possible the Interracial Commission will file some complaints against the firms that have been discriminating?

A. Well, I would say that it is not impossible, but our first approach will be that of persuasion rather than taking any affirmative action. When I visited Somerset County shortly after the election I was impressed with the desire of the public officials to cooperate with the State, and I believe this cooperation is still possible. That's why we're going to have a meeting very shortly and see what we can do about achieving these objectives without taking any affirmative action.

Q. By a meeting, do you mean your staff?

A. I'm going to have members of my staff tomorrow contact members of the political community and some members of the economic community to begin to talk about the problems. I want to emphasize the difference between this approach and that which took place at Bowie State College. I think this is important. There has been no violence, no breaking of the law. There has been no belligerent conduct on the part of these students. They have been most mature in their approach and they have responded not only forthrightly and quickly, but they have demonstrated that they still have the capacity to believe and they are not completely cynical about the ability of a public official to do what he says he is going to do.

NEWS CONFERENCE

May 23, 1968

OPENING STATEMENT BY THE GOVERNOR

I just have one comment to make that I think is rather important — essential to a balanced evaluation of some of the problems that are taking place in Salisbury and Princess Anne. I've noted that every story that I've seen or heard that relates to these incidents indicates that the incidents were triggered by the shooting of a Negro deaf