

mute. There isn't any other comment than that and I guess there can't be because I don't believe there has been any more of the investigation revealed than that. But in the interest of making a more objective appraisal of what took place I feel constrained to release this much information: The man who was shot had a criminal record and had in fact served time after a conviction for breaking and entering and burglary on two occasions. In addition to that, in his possession was found a stolen check in his billfold. I say this because it can't be prejudicial as this man is not on trial for anything, and because I think it's essential to quiet the rumors that have been circulating — some of which were mentioned to me by the students from Princess Anne, who had a totally erroneous concept of what took place. The students had heard a story that at the time of his shooting the man was handcuffed. This is not true. So this much clarification I hope will restore a little balance to what took place, and I don't want this to be construed as a defense of the police officer. I don't find as a matter of fact that he was justified in taking the action that he did. I think that will have to wait the results of the total investigation.

#### Questions and Answers

Q. Governor, you seem to be familiar with this. How would the police interrogate a deaf mute?

A. No further comment than what I have made.

#### (Poor People's March)

Q. Governor, on another matter of race relations: Have Marylanders been concerned about the Poor People's March in Washington?

A. Well, I don't know because very frankly I've been involved with so many local problems — not just racial problems, but general local problems — that I haven't had much of an opportunity to discuss the Poor People's March in any depth with many people.

Q. Is it fair to say that people have not made their concern known to you?

A. I have not received, to my knowledge, a great amount of mail on this subject. I have not received any mail that's been addressed to me personally on this subject.

#### (Local Negro Leadership)

Q. Governor, following last month's meeting with Negro leaders in Baltimore, you said something to the effect that it might be necessary to find some new Negro leaders. Are you in the process of trying to do this?