

Governor Agnew: No, I am not, but I do feel it is very important for the Governors to support the candidate who is most likely to emerge victorious, provided that the philosophies expressed by the various candidates are compatible with the individual support.

Mr. Furgurson: Governor Agnew, you were elected as a rather liberal Republican in a campaign in which your opponent's operation had racial overtones. But in recent months you yourself have said things, including your current reference to the riots in Baltimore and your criticism of some parts of what the Poor People's March is doing, which indicate that you have undergone a shift in your attitude on such matters.

Is this correct, or do you merely feel that you are reflecting the sympathies of the voters in Maryland?

Governor Agnew: I don't try to reflect the sympathies of anyone where it would do violence with my own opinions and my own convictions. The point I'd like to make most emphatically at this point is that I feel I am more liberal today than I was when I took office, that I have an even stauncher conviction about the need for equal opportunity and the removal of discrimination, but that I feel in some cases the identification of these problems has been so perverted by extremists who are attempting to connect the civil rights movement with things totally divorced from it, the efforts of the new left to link up with the civil rights movement and to do away with the honor that we traditionally pay our country. The making of nationalism into a nasty word, or patriotism into something we should abhor rather than support, has not changed me, nor has it changed my convictions, but the thrust and the identification of what we are trying to do in this country is changing because too many people are concerned with what is happening in these extremist movements.

Mr. Furgurson: Do you want to put your finger on any of these extremist leaders that you have spoken of?

Governor Agnew: I have identified them before, and I see no useful purpose in attempting to recap them because I am afraid that I might do some one of them dignity by leaving him out.

Mr. Broder: Governor Agnew, you said that you had been very impressed by Mr. Nixon's conduct in this campaign. What kind of leadership is it when every time there is a crisis or every time someone is assassinated in this country, Mr. Nixon goes into a moratorium and disappears from the public scene?