

you have appointed General Milton Reckord, the former Adjutant General, who also happens to be a long-time member and official of the National Rifle Association, as your special representative on a legislative council subcommittee studying the subject of gun control. General Reckord has said that he agrees in general with the NRA's opposition to comprehensive gun control legislation.

What was your purpose in appointing him? Do you think he represents the public mood?

Governor Agnew: No. General Reckord worked with me when I was the chief elected official of one of the largest counties in Maryland in this same subject matter, and he was successful in bringing public opinion together in the submission of a bill that was approved. He also worked at the State level for the Maryland gun control law which was enacted in 1966, and I don't think it is quite fair to identify him merely as a member or an officer of the National Rifle Association. He is a former Adjutant General of the State of Maryland, who has had a very distinguished public career, assisting the Maryland government in many ways. I feel after discussing the problem of control with him that he is definitely in favor of tightening up control in some ways, particularly in the way of a waiting period with adequate time for the police to investigate applicants who want to purchase weapons — a waiting period with fingerprinting of the applicants so they can be identified through the FBI files.

What I am worrying about in gun control is there is too much of a tendency to reach out without adequate examination of the subject matter, in emotional reaction to the tragic assassination that recently happened, and possibly to create regulation of an area which not only is against the interests of the average citizen but an area which shouldn't be this closely regulated and which will lead to abuses and harassment of the ordinary citizen by the controlling authorities.

Mr. Furgurson: When you selected General Reckord to represent you, did that mean that he was reflecting your opinions about gun control? Doesn't he have a closed mind on the subject, if he has been for so long subscribing to NRA's point of view?

Governor Agnew: Absolutely he does not have a closed mind on the subject. There may be things that he has — elements of it which he has gone through many discussions on and that I imagine it would be very difficult to shift him on, but any person as well versed in the general subject matter as General Reckord is able to modify and temper his opinions, based on the needs of the situation. In my con-