

(Threat of Civil Disorders to Civil Liberties)

Q. Governor, one social critic has commented that public reaction to crime, to civil disorders and general permissiveness, can be so strong that this country will end up losing a great percent of our civil liberties.

A. You know that's something that a lot of people are worried about, and I think I share some of that concern, too. When I was at the University of Maryland commencements at Munich and Heidelberg there was an attempt to transfer from the Allied powers to the West German Government certain riot control measures. And I said to some of the people I talked with -- Mr. Kiesinger and others -- we've done this in nearly all of our states, and no one's concerned about this. And of course, he said, "Yes, but you've got to understand that over here we're more sensitive because you've never had a Hitler." I think this is a good point and one we shouldn't forget -- that in attempting to deal with the breakdown of the authority, and to bolster law and order, that we don't get pushed over the line to the point that we have an authoritarian government. And, of course, the balance in a democracy is a very delicate one and one that requires the best efforts of all concerned to keep it an equitable balance. It's not an easy thing to do. I think the point you raised is a valid one -- that we have to watch very carefully against drifting so far to the right that we have authoritarianism and that legitimate dissent and protest are drowned out in the rigors of our system.

GREETINGS TO REPUBLICAN STATE CONVENTION,
STATE HOUSE, ANNAPOLIS

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May I extend a warm and most enthusiastic welcome to the delegates of Maryland's Republican State Convention. It is a pleasure, and I hope a measure of my clairvoyance, that I see all those seats filled by good Republicans. I only wish you could occupy them for the next two and a half years.

Certainly, the setting of today's meeting is significant and symbolic. We have struggled often and arduously for control of this State House; and with greater frequency and in greater numbers, we have met with success.