

(Open Housing)

Q. You said not too long ago that you now favor 100% open housing. Do you think it's necessary — will you put in a total open housing bill at the Legislature or has the Supreme Court decision taken care of that as far as you are concerned?

A. I don't know whether the Court decision has taken care of it. I frankly have never felt that laws on housing are going to do this job because housing is an economic problem. You can have total open housing under the law but you still can't have integrated neighborhoods unless the people are in a financial position to move into the neighborhoods. I think that complaints about the lack of open housing sometimes are used as a crutch to explain other deficiencies, and I want to see that crutch removed so that we can get down to the specifics — the economic problems — that need to be solved. So I am for open housing. I think it's an entirely necessary premise on which to launch the problem-solving that needs to be done in the cold, hard ability of families who have reached the socio-economic structure that entitles them to the move into other areas. But I don't think it's going to solve the problem in itself. It didn't solve it in Harlem, for example.

Q. Would you care to elucidate on that phrase "a crutch" or other deficiencies?

A. Yes, I think that many of the people — and certainly not the people that are involved in the desire to move, but the people who are activists in certain civil rights organizations — all too frequently use the lack of an open housing ordinance as a take-off point to criticize the lack of the sensitivity of the so-called power structure to be receptive to their problems. That's what I mean by a crutch.

(Lowering Voting Age)

Q. Governor, the President has asked Congress to extend the franchise to all eighteen-year olds. Are you in favor of that?

A. I've testified in favor of it during the Constitutional Convention hearings. I am still in favor of it, yes.

(Sales Tax)

Q. Governor, back to taxes. There is some suggestion that all meals should be taxed, not only those over a dollar. Do you think this is one of the loopholes that needs to be plugged?

A. All sales taxes are different and some of them take a very heavy bite. They are heavy revenue producers for states when they include