

not be sitting in as Governor, as some of my critics seem to imply. And, as I said earlier, I intend to return to the State on a regular basis — as frequently as my schedule will permit and hopefully from one to three days each week — to handle the matters that require my personal attention on the scene. In no sense have I “removed” myself from the State.

Finally, I would like to tell you that I feel humble but proud of the new role that your fellow Marylander has been asked to assume in national affairs. I sat in a private conference yesterday with the President of the United States, the Secretary of State, the head of the CIA and Mr. Cyrus Vance, who flew home from the Paris peace talks for this personal briefing for Mr. Nixon and me. I am aware of the awesome problems and responsibilities this country faces at this hour, abroad as well as at home. And I welcome the challenge and the opportunity given a Marylander to articulate the views of a majority of his State’s citizens and to make his influence felt on these and other problems.

NEWS RELEASE AND STATEMENT ON PROGRAM FOR INSURING LOSSES FROM DISORDER

August 19, 1968

Governor Agnew today urged insurance companies doing business in Maryland to participate in the Federal Re-insurance Program recently enacted by Congress.

State legislation will be required at the next session of the General Assembly to implement the Federal statute which is designed to protect the insurance companies from catastrophic losses resulting from riots or civil disorders.

Many small businessmen in Baltimore found that their insurance had been cancelled because of high risk following the April rioting.

“Although I am reluctant to see increased Federal participation in the insurance industry,” the Governor said, “this Federal program appears to be the only practical alternative to protect insurance companies from tremendous losses in this situation.”

“Economic stability is of primary importance if we are to solve the problems of the ghetto areas,” the Governor said. “It is an economic fact of life that this stability cannot be achieved if the mer-