

Newark and others during the riots there worked with the poor in trying to get them certain legal rights. He said: "To extend the protection of our existing institutions and laws to every person is obviously essential. But there is a more fundamental question regarding the structure of the institutions themselves."

He asked the question: "Do our local institutions adequately serve the requirements of modern urban America?" And he asked this question: "Is the structure of criminal law in your neighborhood adequate?"

I want to say that from today's *Morning Sun* I have a statement dated December 9, and it says: "Rural Poor Called U.S. 'Disgrace'." Now I am talking about the poor White and poor Negro.

The statement said that, "President Johnson was told today that the 14,000,000 Americans living in abject rural poverty are a 'national disgrace' to the world's richest nation. In a 160-page report issued last September and released by the White House today, a special national advisory commission warned that riots are rooted in rural poverty and indicated government, private enterprise and citizenry for indifference to the problem."

The article continued: "Describing the misery in which the rural poor live, the report spoke of Negro children who do 'not get enough food to sustain life, and (are) so disease ridden as to be beyond cure.'

"It described the rural poor as living in 'atrocious houses and going to poor schools with the result that more than 3,000,000 rural adults are classified as illiterates.

"In both educational facilities and opportunities, the rural poor have been short-changed,' it declared."

This news article from the *Sun* of this morning said: "And because the major social welfare and labor legislation has discriminated against rural people, many of the rural poor have been denied unemployment insurance, denied the right of collective bargaining and denied the protection of workmen's compensation laws."

Now I will get into the area where we are concerned with the citizen of Maryland. We find that in the courts, even though we have the equal protection clause of the United States Constitution, even

though we have enacted the equal protection doctrine in our Constitution, many people are deprived because of their low economic status or their social status.

I read again from the *Sun*, this time from August 2, 1966. The article pertains to the landlord and tenant problem. The landlord and tenant problem is an example of what you might call a social status and the economic status. From feudal times, the landlord has been known as the lord of the manor, and the tenant has been known as someone who has to abide by the wishes of the landlord.

I can cite other facts from the United States Civil Rights Commission to support this, but I shall read, briefly. The *Sun* editorial says:

"When it comes to landlord-tenant relationships, the People's Court functions primarily as a rent-collection and eviction agency. It sees to it that tenants fulfill their obligations to their landlords or get out. But there is another side to the coin, and that is the landlords' obligation to provide their tenants with the safe, sound and sanitary housing prescribed by city law."

Then the article goes on to describe the judge and his role in the People's Court. It says:

"Judge Rogers favors some new kind of landlord-tenant court which would have the powers to fine landlords for not making repairs or to order their rents withheld until repairs are made."

Now, this particular right was established in the State of New York.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Taylor, you have one minute left.

DELEGATE L. TAYLOR: In order to wind up, I would like to say that we have discrimination against the economically deprived in earlier laws concerning schools.

"Arthur W. Sherwood, Republican candidate for Mayor, yesterday accused the School Board of shortsightedness," according to the *Sun*, "because it allocated only \$8,030,000 of a proposed \$20,000,000 bond issue to inner-city school construction."

Just a few days ago the Tax Assessment Department in the City of Baltimore released a story saying that it would assess the property in a certain section of Baltimore up to 60 percent of its real sales value. At the present time the property is unassessed, and this property is owned by many well-to-do people.