

I met today with Governor Wallace of Alabama to discuss the situation that has developed in his State.

The Governor expressed his concern that the demonstrations which have taken place are a threat to the peace and security of the citizens of Alabama.

I expressed my own concern about the need for remedying those grievances which lead to demonstrations by people who feel their rights have been denied. I said that those Negro citizens of Alabama who have systematically been denied the right

to register and to participate in the choice of those who govern them, should be provided the opportunity of directing national attention to their plight. They feel they are being denied a very precious right, and I understand their concern.

In his telegram to me, Governor Wallace expressed his belief that all eligible citizens are entitled to exercise the right to vote. He repeated that belief today and stated that he is against discrimination in that regard. I am firmly

convinced, as I told the Governor today, that when all of the eligible Negroes of Alabama have been registered, the economic and social injustices they have experienced throughout will be righted and the demonstrations will stop. I advised the Governor of my intention to press with all the vigor of which I am capable to assure that every citizen of this country is given the right to participate in his government -- at every level -- through the

voting process.

The Governor's expressed interest in law and order met with a warm response. We are a nation governed by laws and our procedures for enacting amending, and repealing them must prevail. I told the Governor we believe in maintaining law and order in every county and precinct in the country. If State and local authorities are unable to function the Federal government will meet its responsibilities.

☐ I told the Governor that the brutality in Selma last

Sunday must not be repeated. He agreed that he abhorred brutality and regretted any incidents in which any American citizen met with violence.

As the Governor had indicated his desire to take actions to remedy the existing situation in Alabama which causes people to demonstrate, I suggested to him that he consider the following actions, which I believed would be constructive:

First, I urged that he publicly declare his support for universal suffrage in the State of

Alabama and in the United States.

Second, I urged him to assure that the right of peaceful assembly will be permitted in Alabama so long as law and order is maintained;

Third, I urged the Governor to call a bi-racial meeting when he returns to Montgomery to seek greater cooperation and unity among Americans of both races.

I asked the Governor for his cooperation and expressed my appreciation for his visit.