

bringing them under the bill that is advocated by Senator Clark, or the position that's advocated by Senator Clark, presently encompasses. And I think that that type of amendment would have just as much impact as doing it right now. I don't think it's possible right now to do it; that's my political judgment. People certainly can't accuse me of lack of leadership for stressing what I think is a possible successful position.

Q. Governor, have you heard any statement from Mr. Peppersack in regard to a possible hearing when the investigation is over?

A. I wrote Mr. Peppersack a letter indicating that his pay status was to terminate effective the end of this month. I also told him that upon receipt of the Attorney General's final report I would make an adjudication as to his status, whether he was to be finally dismissed at that time. If dismissal does result, he will be given a hearing, even though technically there is no entitlement to a hearing. I think the man is entitled to a hearing on moral grounds alone if he wants to have one.

Q. Governor, at Mr. Burch's news conference last week he said that suspension was tantamount to a permanent dismissal, in so many words. Do you go along with that?

A. No, the suspension is just what it says it is. It's a suspension.

Q. Governor, were you apprised of the fact that Miss Blum was involved in discussion in Mr. White's office yesterday prior to resignation?

A. I hear that Miss Blum had been talked to by the Acting Director, yes.

Q. Do you expect more resignations in the prison system?

A. I'm not certain of that. I would believe it's entirely possible that there will be other people who may resign as a result of the shakeup, if I can use that word in the correctional system. There may be dismissals.

Q. Do you expect any indictments of criminals there?

A. I can't answer that because Mr. Burch's investigation still isn't complete.

Q. Are you satisfied with the progress of the investigation thus far — I refer now to the speed level?