With All Deliberate Speed? Massive Resistance in Virginia

A Keynote Address by Governor L. Douglas Wilder

Friday, July 17, 2009 at the State Capitol of Virginia

GOVERNOR WILDER SPEAKS AT THE STATE CAPITOL

"From it emerged as one. It is here, in that sense, that our national story begins."

"The James itself finds its true origins not in a single confluence of streams but in time and is ever a work in progress in every community, city and back road where the nation touches."

"A democracy is built, after all, one citizen at a time, coming back and running for mayor of Richmond. Honestly, it was temporary insanity and I wanted to do many other things."

"Governor Wilder was the first elected African American governor in American history."

"In 1951, he graduated from Virginia Union University with a degree in chemistry and that comes in handy in politics, doesn't it, Governor?"

"Though Massive Resistance may have legally ended in 1959, lingering effects of decades of justifying the refusal of Virginia to desegregate public education continue to this day."

"We're talking about the Revolutionary War."

"Let us unite to let the age of enlightenment continue."

"But it was also this place where I was sworn in to the highest office of the Commonwealth and all of the implications of the struggle and success that we've known here and that we've lost here, and that we're going to have to do as a Commonwealth and a nation, that is going to define us."

"No one could nor can deny that real and substantial progress has been made in our society and we have learned a great deal from the civil rights movement."

"I'm not suggesting that we have got to the point where we can ignore it. We cannot ignore it."

"I'm not suggesting that we have got to the point where we can ignore it. We cannot ignore it. I'm not suggesting that we have got to the point where we can ignore it. We cannot ignore it."