

to secure their right to life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness; and acknowledging our duty and responsibility to posterity, do establish and ordain this Constitution."

This was the result of a great deal of work and effort, and I frankly realize that if each of you had undertaken to write a Preamble each of you would come up with your own. However, let me just call these few things to your attention.

It starts out, "We, the People" because we, the people, are the ones who are making this Constitution.

It says "grateful for our civil and religious freedom". This means all persons, we, the people, grateful for civil and religious freedoms to all of us. This is not just a part-way preamble.

It establishes and recognizes that all political power is in the people "recognizing that all political power originates in the people and that all government is instituted to secure their right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

This government we are establishing then is one to secure the right of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Then we acknowledge that we have a duty and a responsibility to posterity, not just to write this thing for the day after tomorrow but for a long time to come. And finally I come to the very last thing, ladies and gentlemen, "grateful to God." This is not just an idle phrase, because this country was raised in religious toleration and in reliance on a divine power. I suppose we have received more letter requesting that we retain God in the Constitution than on any other subject.

Ladies and gentlemen, I have tried to formulate words that can describe what I really believe we are talking about when we talk about God as our guide in these matters and to whom we are grateful. I would just like to close very briefly with the words of a famous hymn which I think is known to most of us. I believe this really expresses what we are saying when we state in this Preamble our gratitude to God.

"God of our fathers, whose almighty hand

Leads forth in beauty all the starry band

Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,

"Our grateful songs before Thy throne arise.

"Thy love divine hath led us in the past;

"In this free land with thee our lot is cast;

"Be Thou our Ruler, guardian, guide and Stay;

"Thy word our law, Thy paths our chosen way."

Ladies and gentlemen, this is what the Constitution is all about. We can write all kinds of forms of government, but if we do not preserve the rights of the individual, if we do not recognize the source of our divine power in building this great State and this great country, we have missed the boat.

We have tried to present a restatement for you, terse and brief, setting forth these rights. If we have failed, we are sorry. If we have succeeded, then we believe maybe we have helped contribute something towards a monument which I believe this Convention is going to be proud of, the state is going to be proud of, and so is the nation.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

If the questioning of the Committee Chairman is likely to be brief, the Chair would like to conclude it. If it will be extensive, I would like to postpone it until tomorrow.

Would the Delegates who have any intention of asking questions please now indicate so to the Chair or stand?

The Chair recognizes Delegate Powers.

DELEGATE POWERS: Mr. Chairman, I move the Committee of the Whole rise and report its approval of the Committee Recommendation S&E-2 with amendments and further report that it has not concluded its consideration of Committee Recommendation R&P-1.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Clerk will please ring the quorum bell.

Delegate Clagett.

DELEGATE CLAGETT: A point of personal privilege.

We simply wanted to make your day a little less long.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

All in favor of the motion signify by saying Aye. Contrary, No. The Ayes have it. It is so ordered.

*(Whereupon, at 6:20 P.M., the Committee of the Whole rose, and the Convention reconvened.)*