

Next year—1967—the Constitution under which we are now operating will be 100 years old. As had been said so often, it has been amended more than a hundred times since it was adopted. Some idea of how clumsy and ineffective it is as a document of basic law can be gained from the fact the sixteen additional amendments to the Constitution will be on the ballot in the General Election next November. This is appalling. Discounting the “Bill of Rights” amendments, which historically are a part of the original document, this represents more amendments than have been made to our Federal Constitution since it was ratified in 1789.

In view of all this, I was deeply pleased that the General Assembly approved a Constitutional Convention for 1967, subject to the September 13 referendum. I regard this act as one of the outstanding achievements of this administration. I urge every voter in the State of Maryland to go to the polls on Primary Election day and cast a vote for the Constitutional Convention.

I congratulate those of you who have gathered here today to begin this important mission, and I pledge my cooperation and assistance, and the cooperation and assistance of every department and agency of the State, in the task which you have so admirably assumed.

It is my hope that the voters of Maryland on September 13 will give those who will serve in the Constitutional Convention next year a resounding mandate to fashion a body of basic law that will serve the best interests of Marylanders of our generation and of many generations to come.

ADDRESS, SOUTHERN GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE
KENTUCKY DAM VILLAGE STATE PARK

September 19, 1966

Governor Breathitt, Kentucky's reputation for friendliness and cordiality was known to all of us before we came here, but the warmth of the reception we have received here at Kentucky Dam Village has exceeded our highest expectations. We are truly grateful to you and to the people of the Commonwealth of Kentucky for your generous hospitality. I am deeply impressed, as I know the others of our conference are, by the majestic beauty of this spot which we chose for our 1966 meeting. It was a happy choice, and we are most grateful to you for having recommended it to us. In such attractive surroundings,