

you who would write my epitaph prematurely, inscribe these words if you please: that it is a finer thing by far to be remembered as the Governor who served the best than as the Governor who served the longest.

It is a popular thing to talk about saving money in government and we know many in public life today who exploit this theme to the fullest. But many of these self-proclaimed protectors of the budget fail to recognize that spending is good when it buys progress and evil only when wastefully dispensed. In Annapolis today there is a leadership determined to invest in the war against pollution, crime, ignorance and frustration but just as equally determined to save money in aggressively combating waste, duplication, inefficiency and bureaucracy. We have set up the Task Force on Modern Management to examine the worth of every program, the importance of every job, the reason for every dollar spent by government. And if this task force performs in the manner of those in New York, Ohio and Washington State, where millions upon millions of dollars have been saved, the citizens of Maryland are going to get more for their money than ever before!

While we in government propose to serve you better — you, my friends — will prepare to write history — a new constitution for the State of Maryland.

On June 13th, you are going to elect delegates to a Constitutional Convention and on May 14th, 1968, you will be asked to vote your approval of a new set of governing laws. You are going to decide whether our State will give more powers to governors or less, elect more officials to serve or less. You will decide whether Maryland is to have a bicameral or unicameral legislature, a unified or loosely composed statewide judiciary, a restricted State debt or a free one, and to what extent regulatory powers and taxing authority should be vested in local governments. If the matter of writing a new constitution appears to you, in describing some of its technical aspects, somewhat theoretical and removed from the practical realm of down-to-earth working government, let me assure you that the very opposite is the case. The Constitution is not only the supreme and most important law of our State, but sets the moral, philosophical and legal basis for every protection you enjoy and every right and privilege that your government provides.

Of the 142 delegates to the Constitutional Convention, four will be chosen to represent Allegany County and one more will represent Garrett County.