

By numbers you are sparse but writing constitutions and imbuing them with foresight and enlightened thought is not the result of roll calls but of individual creativity. The four from Allegany could indeed be the Big Four of the Constitutional Convention and the representative from Garrett might well prove himself to be the most singular talent in the entire assembly of delegates. The opportunity is up to them once *you* have sent them to convention, so send your finest and give your most earnest attention to their deliberations.

A vigorous leadership breaking *with* convention and an aroused citizenry calling themselves *to* convention is the tone and temper of these days. In my inaugural address I called for a new and abundant energy to revitalize Maryland affairs and in light of what we have accomplished and what we are preparing now to initiate, that call has been answered.

Progress to date, on the surface, has seemed relatively smooth and effortless but in fact it has put men to agonies of reappraisal in terms of what is right, and what is good, and what is just. There have been some compromises in some programs for the sake of passage but not one compromise in any program at the loss of principle. We have not played at politics, we have worked at it, and the pursuit of excellence in the first hundred days of the journey lies not on the distant horizon but before our very eyes.

Ladies and Gentlemen . . . a governor cuts many ribbons, signs a lot of proclamations and feasts on many a roast beef dinner during his days in office. There are times when pomp and ceremony plague a man, distract him from his thoughts, remove him from his family and make of him more of a puppet than a person.

But tonight is something very special. It is a pleasure and a privilege to be among you. Your country is beautiful, your hospitality impeccable and your concern for integrity in government serves to reinforce my own. I hope you will invite me back again and that in the meantime you in your way . . . and I in mine . . . will serve this great State of Maryland as we would want it to serve us. Thank you and good night.

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