

question, I'm very dedicated to the concept that we should utilize these Federal monies to the maximum, and it's just bad business for us in Maryland government because of certain ideological assumptions about Federal assistance to let money of our taxpayers go to other jurisdictions for needs that are so vital and critical here in our own State. That's why I named Mr. Bresler to spend his time in Washington to make sure that the subdivisions and the municipalities were made constantly aware of what was available to them and to encourage them to use the Federal monies to remedy local situations.

Q. Along that line, what kind of progress is Mr. Bresler making?

A. He's doing very well. I met with him last night and he's working actively with many groups throughout the State. He's been with me at some of the meetings that have been held in the counties and will continue to meet with their local people.

Q. Governor, judging from letters in newspapers and letters that we are receiving in the office, there is a lot of distrust over "Civic" and other screening organizations for the Constitutional Convention elections. Do you have any comment?

A. Well, I felt that Civic is trying to do a good job. I think that the remark of someone from that organization that's triggered a great deal of response, was an unfortunate remark. I think the words "if you don't measure up, get out," were used. Well, who is going to say whether a person measures up? That's why we have elections. If enough people think he measures up, he gets elected. On the other hand, I don't think we should discourage organizations like Civic from trying to do the best job of screening and suggesting that they can for people who may be inclined to respect their judgments. But to tell a person, "look at whom you're running against and if you don't measure up, get out," that's a rather arrogant statement. I'm not in sympathy with that.

Q. Shouldn't the voter use his own judgment instead of taking all the advice from the screening organization?

A. I think so. I think the voter should use his own judgment but on many occasions I have been persuaded by the opinions of people whom I trust who have had an opportunity to spend a great deal more time in evaluating a situation, and I think this may very well be the case with some voters who don't have a chance to read or judge people and may be persuaded by the recommendations of groups like Civic.