

of race or creed. But the greatest triumph of these measures rests not in these statutes but in the spirit which generated their enactment. For this legislation was not the negative product of external coercion from the Federal Congress or the United States Supreme Court but the positive result of the independent logic and conviction determined by a majority of the elected representatives of Maryland's citizens that this action was morally right and ethically imperative.

Finally, there is the fourth bridge — and undoubtedly the most significant one. The 1967 General Assembly has excavated the foundation but only you the citizens can hire the architects and approve the design for this great superstructure — which will span the length of this century. You, my friends, are about to embark upon the opportunity of a lifetime. You are preparing 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 ratify a new set of governing laws. You are going to decide whether our State will give more powers to future governors or less, elect more officials to serve or fewer. You will decide whether Maryland is to have a bicameral or unicameral legislature, a unified or diversified 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 more 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 with its concomitant obligation that your government provides.

Of the 142 delegates to the Constitutional Convention many will be women. And the participation of women, in itself, marks an historic precedent, for this is the first time women will have the opportunity to ratify, and to write a constitution for Maryland.

As University Women proud of your education, and dedicated through your organization to progress in your community, State and nation, I am certain several among you have filed as candidates to the Convention. Those of you who shall win a delegate's position in the June election will bring a special talent, experience and foresight to