NEWS CONFERENCE

May 25, 1967

OPENING STATEMENT BY THE GOVERNOR

We are today issuing a proclamation declaring June 13, the day of the Constitutional Convention election. a legal holiday for which I will read the proclamation:

> Whereas, the date of June 13, 1967, has been set by the General Assembly for a special election day for the purpose of electing delegates to the Maryland Constitutional Convention; and whereas, this will be one of the most important days in Maryland civic and political life in this century since those chosen will participate in the framing of a new basic document of government for the first time in 100 years; and whereas, it is of vital importance that every qualified voter of Maryland be afforded ample opportunity to exercise his franchise in this election. Now, therefore, I, Spiro T. Agnew, Governor of the State of Maryland, by virtue of the power vested in me do hereby proclaim June 13, 1967, as a legal holiday in the State of Maryland, and I urge that business and industry give appropriate attention to this day and do whatever is possible to encourage their employees to vote. Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland at the City of Annapolis this 25th day of May in the year of our Lord, 1967.

Q. Governor, does that mean schools will be closed?

A. I'm not certain whether this is a mandated proposition with the schools or whether it's up to the individual decision of the Board of Education. Generally, schools are not closed on all the legal holidays, as I recall. I would guess it would be up to the boards.

Q. Governor, do you intend to send a copy of this to the Civil Service Commission in Washington and ask them to be lenient with Federal employees in giving them adequate leave?

A. I hadn't thought of that, but I'd certainly be glad to do it if it would be of assistance in bringing to the attention of the Federal officials how important we regard this election in Maryland.

Q. Can we go one step farther and say you'll do it?

A. At your suggestion, I'll do it.