

or establish a new Government; the doctrine of non-resistance against arbitrary power and oppression is absurd, slavish and destructive of the good and happiness of mankind.

Over the past four decades, Maryland and the rest of the nation have undergone transition so enormous that the Constitution which served our forebears is no longer appropriate to serve us.

And in the sense of the portion of the Declaration of Rights just quoted, we shall return to that mandate to "reform the old" in accordance with the judgment of the voters in the last General Election.

In the overwhelming mandate calling for a Constitutional Convention, Marylanders have again demonstrated an awareness of the need to advance with an advancing age. We ask now for a new and efficient design to direct our course through the twentieth century and into the twenty-first. In so doing, we not only recognize the vitality of the future but we recapture and reaffirm the spirit of change and progress which has been a credit to the Maryland past.

We must recognize the Constitutional Convention as the catalyst needed to quicken the transition of governmental structure from obsolescence to efficiency. For we have lived with old laws too long and resisted new ideas too easily. Without change, immediate and positive change, we will become merely custodians of a static state; drifting from a state of indifference to a state of emergency . . . searching for direction and pleading for purpose.

A Constitutional Convention and a newly reapportioned Legislature provide us with the *ability* to create a better Maryland. The real challenge and the great opportunity that lies ahead is to capitalize upon this mandate for improvement by establishing the foundation for continuing progress.

It is within our power today to create a working, imaginative State government. Our role is vital and immediate. We must recognize that the benefits of legislative and administrative reform are dependent on a searching examination and a dynamic revision of our total fiscal structure.

States are things of economic as well as political being. Imbalances which place a disproportionate tax burden on certain groups of taxpayers retard economic growth and tend to stifle political action. A fair and realistic sharing of the costs of governmental services, a sharing that increases the taxpayer's economic equity in his state and in his