

Article VII dealing with the powers assigned or reserved to local government demands careful review. While I strongly endorse the principles of Home Rule, I believe any mandatory or implied shift of powers to the county governments should be considered with care. I have grave reservations over any partial or ambiguous grant of authority that is not exactly balanced by a direct line of accountable responsibility to the electorate.

Sections 7.08 and 7.09 are sought to reform existing legislative practices that have been subject on isolated occasions to deliberate political manipulation and abuse. However, I do not believe that the classification system is the absolute or ultimate solution to this problem. Other alternatives should be explored to protect the counties without freezing them into rigid, restrictive categories.

Since a constitution is designed not only to serve the present but to anticipate the future, it is vital that provisions to facilitate regional government be included for that time — no matter how distant — when local governments desire to unite in some or several cooperative ventures.

Before concluding this testimony, I wish to note that this message has been intentionally limited to those major points and particular passages I most enthusiastically endorse or most seriously question. In all cases, I feel that there is room for further discussion and continued call for compromise based upon consistent logic and practical considerations. Flexibility for future generations compels flexibility in present attitudes.

The challenges of your charge are as inspiring as they are formidable. This State is blessed and commended by the experience and talent of its delegates to this convention. In the weeks ahead you will find the intellectual demands exhausting, the efforts almost superhuman, the decisions often agonizing. Yet you shall meet these demands and make those decisions necessary to create a totally vital and viable document. If at times you despair, or fear that consensus is impossible, compromise inconceivable and, in fact, this is too great a test for human minds, know that encouragement and inspiration reach out to you from the past — that what you attempt has been successfully accomplished before.

Confidence and comfort for today are to be gained from memories of our nation's first Constitutional Convention, where experienced and dedicated — yet fallible and mortal — men assembled to constitute a totally new, representative and democratic government. Conscious