

of problems which now face the State and which undoubtedly will increase in the years ahead.

The Constitution now being put together is more important than any present office or officeholder. It should be a viable document that will function far beyond the lifetimes of those who drafted it and those who now hold the major State offices.

It had seemed that the Convention was well on the way toward achieving this objective when it approved proposals strengthening the legislative and judicial branches. In one of these steps the post-audit function of the Comptroller's office was transferred to the General Assembly, where in my opinion it properly belongs. This leaves the Comptroller's office with strictly administrative duties within the executive branch, duties that properly should be performed under direct supervision of the Governor.

I would earnestly hope at this point that delegates would evaluate what they have done thus far in the light of the original aims and objectives of the Convention.

It was the recommendation of the commission which submitted the carefully researched draft instrument to this Convention that the office of Comptroller be appointive under the Governor. A similar conclusion was arrived at by the Committee on the executive branch which heard further expert testimony.

Delegates who lose sight of the validity of these recommendations because of individual personalities presently incumbent in these offices do a disservice to the State and to future generations. This is particularly true in the light of the already accomplished transfer to the Legislature of the Comptroller's one function justifying his independent existence — that of post-audit review.

NEWS RELEASE AND STATEMENT ON HIGHWAY SAFETY

November 29, 1967

Governor Spiro T. Agnew today called on Maryland law enforcement officers and the judiciary to redouble their efforts "to halt the senseless slaughter on our highways and streets."

In a telegram to the Maryland Association of Police Chiefs, meeting at Gaithersburg, the Governor noted that "Maryland is well on its way to setting a new, tragic record of traffic fatalities."