

Finally, the delegates elected as their president H. Vernon Eney, the man who had piloted the Constitutional Convention Commission through the two years of essential groundwork which led to Constitutional reform. Mr. Eney, a former president of the Maryland Bar Association, knew the scope of the massive job to be done and organized the Convention's work so that it was accomplished efficiently, thoroughly and on schedule.

The chief objectives for the new Constitution were to strengthen and streamline all branches of State government; to clarify existing incoherencies and discard superfluous detail; to assure all possible flexibility for necessary future development in State and local government. While the final product cannot be termed perfect altogether, it has to a great degree succeeded in accomplishing all of its objectives.

The executive branch of Maryland's State government, the branch most beset by checks within, has been relatively freed from internal restraints. Under the 1867 Constitution, executive-administrative authority is eroded by a multiplicity of elected officials and multi-headed boards lacking unequivocal line responsibility to the Governor. In addition, the Governor lacked sufficient appointive and reorganizational powers to forge an efficient or responsive administration. The draft Constitution — while it has continued the multiplicity of elected officials — has eliminated their actual power to obstruct gubernatorial action. The draft document also grants broad appointive and reorganizational power to the Governor. The provision of this authority alone should allow continuous streamlining of the administration in response to evolving or changing needs.

In revising guidelines for the structuring of the legislative branch, the Convention sought not only to strengthen legislative authority but to free its time to focus exclusively upon state issues and to incisively perform its responsibility to the electorate. The draft Constitution extends annual legislative sessions from the present seventy days to a period of ninety days and allows Maryland's General Assembly to convene special sessions on its own initiative. Omission of numerous nonessential prescriptive articles in the draft document is coupled with explicit authorization for the General Assembly to handle these matters through statute. This move should prevent the continuous grafting of unnecessary and unwieldy amendments to the Constitution. The provision of mandatory Home Rule for Maryland's political subdivisions will also relieve the Legislature from taking precious time for purely local affairs. Redistricting and reapportionment are required every ten years to assure that representation is kept