

IMPROMPTU NEWS CONFERENCE UPON RECEIVING
OFFICIAL COPY OF PROPOSED CONSTITUTION
FROM PRESIDENT OF CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

March 19, 1968

Governor: I'm much appreciative, Mr. President. I've admired the work of the Constitutional Convention, as you know, and as I have said on many occasions. And I sincerely hope in spite of the voices that have tentatively been raised against the adoption of this document, that the electorate of Maryland will respond to the overwhelming opinion, as evidenced by the vote of this Convention in favor of this document, to put this into effect at the special election in May. And I want to urge upon every voter that he has a personal responsibility to inform himself of the contents of this document and to go to the polls and register an opinion. I think those who have read the document are for the most part in favor of it — strongly in favor of it — and that the resistance is coming from those who have not been in it in detail and who are simply reacting to vague fears expressed by certain vested interests who may be affected by the reforms in this wonderful document. It's an unusual thing when a Constitution can be approved by a Convention by a vote of 121 to 3, particularly where the delegates to this Convention represent such a broad cross section of State opinion. And I think it is a personal tribute to you, Mr. Eney, that the work of this Convention progressed in such a business-like and outstanding manner. And I'm sincerely worried about the voices that I hear raised against it. I feel that those in favor have been quiescent, and I hope that they will respond now to the call to come out and support this magnificent document which is going to place Maryland among the forefront of the progressive states of the **United States.**

Mr. Eney: Thank you very much, Governor. I would like to take a moment to echo what you have just said, because the work of the **Convention is over. The task is now a task for the people of the State of Maryland.** Unless they think the task before them is important enough, requires their personal effort enough, for them to come out to the polls on May 14, then the work of the Convention has gone for naught. I think our biggest problem is to get this message across to the people. And I would urge every voter to make it his business between now and May 14 to compare the present Constitution and the new one, make a decision and, above all, go to the polls and vote on May 14.