

The proposed Constitution is a clear, concise statement of principle, combining great traditions of the past with sound, operational provisions for the present and the future.

The new Constitution strengthens and streamlines all branches of State government, while protecting and even enlarging upon the rights of the people. It creates a foundation for efficient administration, effective legislation and the competent nonpolitical administration of justice. It assures that the government of Maryland can act swiftly and more economically in response to present and emerging needs. By enlarging the authority of local government, it will enhance the quality of government at all levels.

Marylanders can take justifiable pride in its progress toward Constitutional reform that has drawn the admiring attention of the nation.

This document is the product of more than two years of diligent work by a nonpartisan study commission and a Statewide convention of elected delegates. The delegates, chosen on a nonpartisan basis, had distinguished accomplishments in many fields and were dedicated in seeking to create a more perfect government in their four-month task. We think it is highly significant that they approved the new Constitution on January 10th by an overwhelming vote of 133 to 3 (with four abstaining and two absent).

The final and ultimate step in the process of Constitutional reform comes on May 14th.

We urge that you not allow this opportunity of a century to pass, that you turn out in large numbers and vote for this significant step forward in the history of our State.

Governor Agnew: Any statements by — Judge, would you care to add any comment?

Judge Hammond: I think not, Governor.

Governor: Senator?

Senator James: Governor, I would simply like to add that Senate Majority Leader Harry Hughes and Senate Minority Leader Edward T. Hall have authorized me to say that they concur in this position.

Governor: Very good.

Speaker Mandel: I think the statement that the Governor has made is all-encompassing and speaks for all of us, and I don't think that there is anything more that I can add.

Governor: Thank you, gentlemen.