

1 we rejected the philosophy, but we failed as delegates on
2 this floor ~~have admitted~~ because the business community
3 selfishly and short-sightedly threatened to scuttle this
4 Constitution and we responded to the pressure.

5 The honest conviction of eighty-three delegates
6 who supported on first reading 1.17 was then thwarted.
7 Unfortunately, most of what happened on this floor was
8 fully reported by the press and is no secret to the
9 one million workers in the State of Maryland. Some of
10 it was not reported, and I don't intend to wash that
11 dirty linen in public, but I want to go on. The morality,
12 the ethics, and the basic right, and the sheer need of this
13 provision for collective bargaining was admitted on this
14 floor. The right of these unprotected workers to organize
15 and bargain collectively was not questioned.

16 The argument was made that this is a matter of
17 legislation for the General Assembly to enact. Therefore,
18 it is my hope that in the next few months affirmative
19 action by the General Assembly will help erase that fear,
20 that bitterness, that frustration and disappointment. I
21 hope that such action will soon be forthcoming and before