

1 necessary to create a totally vital and viable document.  
2 If at times you despair that consensus is impossible,  
3 compromise inconceivable and, in fact, that this is  
4 too great a test for human minds, know that encouragement  
5 and inspiration reach out to you from the past -- that  
6 what you attempt has been successfully accomplished  
7 before.

8 Confidence and comfort for today are to be  
9 gained from memories of our nation's first Constitutional  
10 Convention, where experienced and dedicated -- yet  
11 fallible and mortal men -- assembled to constitute a  
12 totally new, representative and democratic government.  
13 Conscious of their limitations but confident in their  
14 principles, they forged a free and flexible Federal  
15 System and gave birth to an enduring government. A  
16 government so good and great, its characterization by  
17 Thomas Jefferson almost two centuries ago is applicable  
18 today: "With all the imperfections of our present  
19 government, it is without comparison the best existing,  
20 or that ever did exist."

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