

1 many citizens of Maryland. We are witnessing an effort to
2 protect the jobs of elected office holders at the expense of
3 establishing an effective Executive Branch of Government that
4 can cope with the multiplicity of problems which now faces
5 the State and which undoubtedly will increase in the years
6 ahead. The Constitution now being put together is more
7 important than any present office or office holder. It
8 should be a viable document that will function far beyond
9 the lifetimes of those who drafted it and those who now
10 hold the major State offices, and it seemed that the Conven-
11 tion was well on the way toward achieving this objective
12 when it approved proposals strengthening the Legislative
13 and Judicial Branches. In one of these steps, the post-
14 audit functions of the Comptroller's Office was transferred
15 to the General Assembly, where, in my opinion, it properly
16 belongs. This leaves the Comptroller's Office with strictly
17 administrative duties within the Executive Branch, duties
18 that properly should be performed under direct supervision
19 of the Governor.

20 I would earnestly hope at this point that Delegates
21 would evalutate what they have done thus far in the light of