

1 THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Brenner, I am very proud on
2 behalf of the Constitutional Convention to accept this very
3 handsome mace. It is another first for Maryland, I believe,
4 and it is particularly appropriate, it seems to me, that
5 it should be presented to the Constitutional Convention
6 of Maryland, one of the original States, by the oldest silver-
7 smith still in active business in the United States.

8 It is a handsome piece. It will be with us
9 daily, and its place on this rostrum will signify that the
10 Constitutional Convention of Maryland is in session.

11 Again, on behalf of the Delegates and on behalf of
12 the State of Maryland I thank you most sincerely.

13 On August 17, 1867, the fourth Constitutional Con-
14 vention of Maryland adjourned after 75 daily sessions,
15 and submitted to the people of the State a constitution
16 which endured for 100 years. Today, 100 years, 26 days
17 and something more than 200 amendments later we assemble
18 as the Fifth Constitutional Convention of Maryland.

19 It seems to me that before we begin our work as the
20 elected delegates to that Convention it behooves us to
21 reflect for a moment on the task before us, consider the