

1 of race, color, religion or national origin."

2 I am sure that most of us are familiar with
3 the commentary which accompanied the draft language in
4 that the commission members felt that this was such a ser-
5 ious problem, both within the state and nationally, that
6 there ought to be a commitment by the state to the
7 prohibition of discrimination on account of race, color,
8 religion and national origin in the Constitution.

9 Working here in the Constitutional Convention,
10 we are not operating in a social vacuum. We believe that
11 the declaration of rights for this state must be
12 written in recognition of the social struggles of this
13 period in our history.

14 To set principles for the guidance of the
15 government in its protection of the peoples' rights to
16 life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, we believe
17 that in addition to the 14th Amendment language, this
18 state Constitution should contain an express declaration of
19 commitment by the state of Maryland prohibiting discrimina-
20 tion on account of race, religion, and national origin.

21 In 1947, President Truman's Civil Rights