

tionally limited to those major points and particular passages I most enthusiastically endorse or most seriously question. In all cases, I feel that there is room for further discussion and continued call for compromise based upon consistent logic and practical considerations. Flexibility for future generations compels flexibility in present attitudes.

The challenges of your charge are as inspiring as they are formidable. The State is blessed and commended by the experience and talent of its delegates to this Convention. In the weeks ahead you will find the intellectual demands exhausting, the efforts almost superhuman, the decisions often agonizing. Yet you shall meet these demands and make those decisions necessary to create a totally vital and viable document. If at times you despair that consensus is impossible, compromise inconceivable and, in fact, that this is too great a test for human minds, know that encouragement and inspiration reach out to you from the past — that what you attempt has been successfully accomplished before.

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

THE PRESIDENT: I am sure that I speak for all the delegates of the Convention in expressing to Governor Agnew our very sincere thanks and appreciation for his most informative and splendid address.

Arrangements have been made to have distributed to each delegate a copy of the Governor's address.

The Convention will come to order, please.

I think a word of explanation as to the resignation, or as to the form of the resignation of Delegate Webster is desirable at this point. As I am sure every delegate knows, Delegate Webster has been very seriously ill since August. He has been hospitalized and his condition is very grave.

In accordance with a resolution of this Convention adopted some time ago, we sent him our best regards and wishes for a speedy recovery. It became obvious to him, however, that his illness was prolonged and that his absence from the Convention deprived Allegany County of the additional fourth representative to which they were entitled. He communicated this to his wife, and through her to the other delegates.

His illness was such that he was unable to sign his name. We consulted the Attorney General and were advised that it would be perfectly proper for Delegate Webster to sign his resignation by mark. In order to assure the Convention that the resignation signed by mark was indeed the resignation of Delegate Webster, his associates from that county took the precaution of having his signature by mark witnessed by these two attendant physicians, and the additional precaution of having the two attending physicians execute the affidavit which was read to you, certifying to the fact that Delegate Webster fully understood his resignation.

In addition, the resignation was submitted to the Attorney General, Mr. Burch, and he has advised me that it is in proper form and legally sufficient.

I have, therefore, accepted it on behalf of the Convention, and pursuant to the suspension of rules, I at this time designate Delegates J. Glenn Beall, Sr.; C. William Gilchrist; and John H. Mosner as a Selection Committee to nominate a successor to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Delegate Webster. Pursuant to the suspension of the rules adopted by the Convention yesterday, the Selection Committee may retire to consider its report.

I might add further that, following the same procedure as I did with respect to the resignation of Delegate O'Connor, I early this morning advised the three delegates whom I have just named as a Selection Committee that I would do so, provided the Convention suspended rules, and suggested that they have an informal meeting this morning so that they would be prepared to act promptly.

I understand they have done so.

DELEGATE BEALL: Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Delegate Beall.

DELEGATE BEALL: I appreciate the remarks that you have made about Delegate Webster, and I want to say, speaking as a delegate and carrying on in behalf of