

my colleagues, that we regret very sincerely that this fine citizen, native Marylander, is unable to serve.

I should say that he was born in Somerset County and came to Allegany County some 40-odd years ago as a school teacher and later became principal of not one, but three high schools, each time of a larger high school, and later became superintendent of schools. Some two years ago he resigned as superintendent of schools because of age. He did not seek the office of delegate; he was actually invited to become a delegate. He was then in good health and looked forward to serving here as a Marylander and a citizen, and I want to say to you, sir, to my fellow delegates, it is with deep regret that we do not have Ralph Webster with us today, and I ask, sir, if I may offer a motion of regrets of this body assembled that we are sorry that he found it necessary for him to retire.

Mr. Chairman, if a motion is in order, I would like to offer that motion that we assembled here today regret the necessity of his having to resign. He is a very distinguished citizen of Allegany County.

I so offer the motion, Mr. Chairman.

THE PRESIDENT: Is there a second?

*(The motion was duly seconded.)*

THE PRESIDENT: The motion is that the Convention extend to Delegate Webster its sincere regret at the necessity which compelled him to tender his resignation, and extend to him our very best wishes for speedy recovery.

All those in favor signify by saying Aye; contrary, No. The Ayes have it unanimously. It is so ordered.

DELEGATE BEALL: Thank you, fellow Delegates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Now, pursuant to your request, we have met, the large delegation of three from Allegany County, and have unanimously endorsed and recommend for the approval of this assembly the appointment of Harold Ritter as his successor. I so offer the motion. It is on the desk, Mr. Chairman.

THE PRESIDENT: Does the Chief Page have a copy of the report of the committee?

Will you please distribute it?

Because you did not have the opportunity to read the report, I will ask the Clerk to read it while it is being distributed.

READING CLERK:

“Report of the Select Committee to Fill the Vacancy Caused by the Resignation of the Honorable Ralph R. Webster.

“The Select Committee has met, in accordance with Rule 71, to nominate to the Convention a person to fill the vacancy occurring by reason of the resignation of the Honorable Ralph R. Webster, Delegate from Allegany County.

“The Select Committee, by unanimous vote, desires to submit to the Convention as its sole nominee Mr. Harold K. Ritter, of Allegany County. Mr. Ritter is a qualified person in accordance with Section 7 of Chapter 4, Acts of 1967, and a concise written statement of his abilities and experience is attached hereto.

“Statement of Abilities and Experience of Harold K. Ritter, Nominee to Fill the Vacancy in the Constitutional Convention Caused by the Resignation of Honorable Ralph R. Webster of Allegany County.

“Harold K. Ritter is 51 years of age and resides at 529 Williams Street, Cumberland, Allegany County, Maryland.

“Mr. Ritter is a graduate of Wilkesburg High School, Wilkesburg, Pennsylvania, of Oakland Business School, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and of the Institute of Labor Studies of the University of West Virginia. He has also completed courses in parliamentary law at the University of Miami.

“As employee of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company since 1943, Mr. Ritter has served 18 years as treasurer of Lodge No. 27, Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, Cumberland. He has been active in legislative affairs in Maryland for 17 years, serving 12 years as local legislative representative.

“Few people have had as much experience as a legislative agent in Maryland as has Mr. Ritter. For the past five years he has represented the Brotherhood of which he is a member before the General Assembly. In this capacity he has been the chief legislative representative of all trainmen in Maryland, including employees of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, the Pennsylvania Railroad, the Western Maryland Railway Company, the Patapsco and Back River Railroad, and the Canton Railroad. He also represents the Baltimore and Annapolis Railroad trainmen and bus drivers and the Baltimore Motor Coach Drivers. His duties have been full time during all sessions of the General Assembly.