

Convention. His 20 years of service as a legislator has provided him a keen insight into the organization and operation of the very functions of government which we will be here called upon to re-define.

As Chairman of the Committee on Taxation and Fiscal matters and as Vice Chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance, he has gained an intimate knowledge of our State's fiscal affairs and a broad knowledge of all problems of government.

As Chairman of the Legislative Council, during his legislative career, he sponsored the enactment of 288 bills, covering much of the major legislation enacted in our State during this period.

His services as town attorney of Aberdeen and as attorney for the Harford County Metropolitan Commission have provided him his understanding of the problems of local government. His membership on the Interstate Advisory Committee on the Susquehanna River Basin which drafted the Susquehanna River Compact recently adopted by our legislature has served to develop first-hand knowledge of the kind of interstate governmental cooperation which will be called upon to provide.

So, I urge you, fellow delegates, in arriving at your choice for President of this Convention to consider carefully the qualifications of this able lawyer, scholar, legislator and experienced parliamentarian, William S. James, Delegate from Harford County. Thank you.

ALTERNATE TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: The name of Delegate James has been placed in nomination. Any seconds? Murray Abramson, Baltimore City.

DELEGATE ABRAMSON: Mr. Chairman, I rise to second the nomination of the Honorable William S. James. His years in the position of leadership in the Senate of Maryland have gained him a profound knowledge of every facet of the state government. His record as presiding officer of that body has been outstanding. His qualities as a man, intellectual integrity and complete honesty, added to his experience, definitely point to him as the President of this Constitutional Convention.

I consider it a great honor to second his nomination.

ALTERNATE TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: Any further seconding, gentlemen? Delegate Storm?

DELEGATE STORM: Storm, Frederick County.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Storm.

DELEGATE STORM: Respected in his profession, with a great and successful record and background of a practicing attorney, his experience and familiarity with every level of state, county and town government, topped with 20 years of sound and progressive legislation, legislation which has been beneficial to the entire State of Maryland, Mr. James is fair and forceful, considerate and diligent, a proven presiding officer; it is an honor for me to second his nomination.

ALTERNATE TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: The name of Delegate James has been placed in nomination. The next name that we have on the list for nomination is that of Delegate O'Connor.

DELEGATE O'CONNOR: I have great confidence in the words of the President pro tem. I know the gentleman whom I am interested in will be nominated and I would like to yield.

ALTERNATE TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: The next name on the list is that of Delegate Powers. Delegate Powers, will you please approach the rostrum.

DELEGATE POWERS: Mr. President, Delegates to the Constitutional Convention of Maryland: I will neither be mysterious nor lengthy in what I have to say. My purpose is to nominate H. Vernon Eney for President of this Convention. The people of Maryland have selected 142 independent minded, hard thinking men and women to draft and submit to them for approval a Constitution. This is a prodigious task because we are limited in time to four short months. Yet, we must create a basic document, bold and courageous and, most important, acceptable to the people. Obviously, the planning and preparation involved, both on a long-range basis and on a day-to-day basis, means that the President of the Convention is not merely a presiding officer, but a man who must have the primary and final responsibility for seeing that the Convention business goes on. This requires strong and firm leadership, but does not and must not entail influencing decisions on the substantive material to be contained in the Constitution.

Our presiding officer must be an effective moderator, for we have many strong and forceful personalities and can anticipate frequently sharp debates. Vernon Eney is not an advocate of the draft of the Commission. As Chairman, he was, of course, the spokesman for the Commission.