

PRESIDENT ENEY: Thank you very much. It is hard to be humble when you have so many good friends who say so many nice things about you. But I assure you that as I stand here this afternoon, before this assembly of delegates and honored guests, I feel indeed very, very humble. I do not intend to make a speech to you this afternoon but I think I would be remiss in my duty if I did not take the opportunity to say a few things that are on my mind.

Two years ago this month when the Constitutional Convention Commission had its first meeting, I told the members that I thought we ought to approach the task before us with a sense of history. I said this not with any notion of inflating our own importance, but on the contrary, of making us feel as humble as possible in the realization that the task confronting us was a formidable one which would demand of us every ounce of our energy and our abilities, our honesty, integrity and judgment.

It is even more true today. I suggest to you delegates that we should indeed approach the task before the Constitutional Convention of Maryland of 1967 with a real sense of history, with a proud realization of the great place of our State in the history of this nation, and a determination that it shall be in the forefront leading us back to a position where we are a great nation of sovereign free states.

One hundred years ago yesterday, the Constitutional Convention of 1867 resumed its session after a ten-day recess for the final seven weeks of its session which produced the Constitution which with numerous amendments has regulated our State ever since.

After we conclude business at this organization session, we shall recess for a long period but only in order to prepare for the race which will begin on September 12, 1967.

I say race advisedly because I feel very deeply that this Convention will be in a race against time in a sense but more particularly in a race against delay.

We have allotted to us three months to complete a tremendous task. I have said many times, and I am quite sure as I stand on this rostrum this afternoon that this Convention can complete the task in three months without the necessity of falling back on that extra 30-day cushion. We can do it if we plan adequately in the next 60 days during the summer recess of this Con-

vention, if every delegate makes up his or her mind to put his or her shoulder to the wheel, to push as hard as possible, to get the business done, to be fair in debate, fair in consideration of the views of the delegates who may be opposed to our particular philosophies, a willingness to approach the solution of every problem with an open mindedness and an ability and willingness to accede to some extent at least to the other fellow's views so that we can finally conclude the Convention with a Constitution for the State of Maryland about which there can be no doubt and concerning the adoption of which by the people of Maryland there can be no doubt.

In order to accomplish this purpose, it will be my aim to appoint as chairman of the various committees and as members of the various committees those persons who seem to be best qualified for the task at hand.

It is my intention to communicate with every delegate and ask him to express to me and to the Vice Presidents his background, his particular skills, abilities, his preferences, his desires as to committee assignments.

I hope to be able to arrange, if it is humanly possible, a personal meeting with every delegate and myself and the two Vice Presidents so that we can explore further the problems of appointing chairmen of committees.

I think the task confronting this Convention is two fold: The task of drafting a satisfactory document, one to which we can all subscribe, and the task of doing it within the time allotted to us. I have not the slightest doubt in my mind that this Convention can accomplish the first task. The citizens of the State of Maryland have sent to this Convention men and women of outstanding ability, experience, training, and capabilities. I think they can certainly prepare a document which can endure as a Constitution of the State of Maryland for the next 100 years. But unless we school ourselves to accomplish this and complete it within the first three months, we fall into the danger of not coming out with the kind of document we want because at the last minute we are under too much pressure.

I think one of the chief functions of your President will be to try to keep the work of the Convention moving apace so that this will not happen. This cannot be accomplished by one person. It is a team effort. I think it is an effort of a team of 142 members. Within that larger team