

am afraid that the delegates in this Convention have thought otherwise.

I have mixed emotions about this question because I am a member of a teachers' union, but I am also at the same time a member of a teacher's professional association. This auditing of my membership grows out of the peculiar circumstances that we have in the teaching profession in Baltimore City. I think the collective bargaining phrase in the constitution would have been of great assistance to teachers throughout the State for when I started teaching as a teacher in Baltimore City, my salary was so low that in that first year of my teaching experience I had to stay with my parents because I could not afford otherwise.

Collective bargaining would perhaps have improved the teaching situation in Baltimore City much sooner than it has been. So I have mixed emotions about this situation we now face in the Convention, but I hope you understand the strong feelings that the proponents of the collective bargaining measure have and the great step they are taking today to help save this Constitution.

I am not sure at this time that what we have gained is not a Pyrrhic victory, but that will only be brought to bear come May 14.

As a history teacher I find some self satisfaction and some answers by searching in history and I am sure that Benjamin Franklin on the last day of the Federal Convention of 1787 must have had to do a lot of soul searching on that occasion. I find some assistance in his words and so I would like to close with a portion of the address Benjamin Franklin had written but was too old and feeble to deliver on the last day of the Federal Convention of 1787 in September.

"Thus I consent, sir, to this Constitution because I expect no better and because I am not sure it is not the best. The opinions I have had of its errors I have sacrificed to the public good. I have never whispered a syllable of them abroad. Within these walls they were born and here they shall stay. If every one of us in returning to our constituents were to report the objections he has had to it and endeavor to gain partisans in support of them, we might prevent its being generally received and thereby lose all the salutary effects and great advantages resulting naturally in our favor among foreign nations as well as among ourselves from a real or apparent unani-

mity. Much of the strength and efficiency of any government in procuring and securing happiness to the people depends upon opinion, upon the general opinion of the goodness of government as well as the wisdom and integrity of its governors. I hope, therefore, that for our own sakes as a part of the people and for the sake of prosperity we shall act heartily and unanimously in recommending this Constitution, wherever our influence may extend and turn our future thoughts and endeavors to the means of having it well administered."

On the whole, sir, I cannot help expressing the wish at this time that every member of the Convention that may still have objections to it would with me on this occasion doubt a little of our own infallibility and to make manifest our unanimity and when the time comes put his name on this instrument. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Delegate Bothe.

DELEGATE BOTHE: Mr. President and fellow delegates, I rise briefly now as I did just a few weeks ago at great length to join with other proponents of what could have been and should be the most fundamental new provision in the new Maryland Constitution which we could have added but which divisiveness from outside of this body has taken from the Constitution.

My personal concern with the inclusion of this provision arises out of my deep concern for the Constitution itself. I have been a member of the Constitutional Convention Committee and for the past three years I have been deeply devoted to the idea of constitutional revision in the State which is very badly needed and which we have provided through the work of this Convention. With one other exception I wholeheartedly support all that we have done and I feel that we are going to give the people of Maryland a vast improvement in their fundamental document and in the workings of the government.

For that reason, I concur in the feelings of others that we cannot carry this matter any further and I hope that all of us can go out and support this Constitution and support this concept which has, I think, persuasively carried this Convention even though the document will not contain the words.

Perhaps when the next constitutional convention is held, it will no longer be necessary to think in terms of providing people the right to bargain and organize. Perhaps it will be an antiquated concept as the abolition of slavery is to us today