

after that the Chair would like to make a statement.

Delegate Kiefer.

DELEGATE KIEFER: Mr. President and ladies and gentlemen of the Convention: I did not come to make a speech today. In fact, if I had know the gracious attitude of the people who have just spoken I would perhaps have slept more easily last night.

Nevertheless, I should make this statement as Chairman of the Personal Rights and Preamble Committee because this is where all of this started. This Committee, and you met them all before, and may I ask will those members of the Committee please stand just briefly so people can see who you are? Please stand just a moment.

*(Applause.)*

You will see that they represent all walks of life. There are wealthy people in this group, they are from the inner city and from the broader and more favored countryside. We found, ladies and gentlemen, that we started out with what we thought were many differences. As we debated and we talked we found we had fewer and fewer differences in basic philosophy. After all, we have the same love for our children and the same love for our grandchildren and for the people with whom we work and with whom we live.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is just not an idle question. There are many things we have been divided upon, but this Committee managed after serious debate and discussion to come up with what it thought were proper answers.

I call your attention to one thing that was overlooked by this group, but which I believe more basically sounds the philosophy that many of these people are talking about and which they Committee advocated. That is Section 9 of its Recommendation No. 2, "It shall be the policy of this State that all", and I underline "all", "persons shall have economic security, the opportunity for employment, and the means to provide for themselves and their families a standard of living based upon decency, dignity, and health."

I believe we have done a good job. I think we have something that this Convention and this State will be proud of, but I want to close only with one expression which this Committee developed after hard work and which as far as I can see this Convention adopted almost unanimously. Let me read to you the banner on which

we shall go forward together, the preamble. It has meaning.

"We, the people of the State of Maryland, grateful to Almighty God for our civil and religious freedom, recognizing that all political power originates in the people and that all government is instituted to secure their right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and acknowledging our duty and responsibility to posterity, do establish and ordain this Constitution."

Let us all go forward together and do exactly that.

*(Applause.)*

THE PRESIDENT: On several occasions from this rostrum I have stated that I am very, very proud of this Convention and every delegate in it. On many more occasions, off of this rostrum and away from this State House, I have made the same statement in greater detail and with much more emphasis.

All of us on September 12, 1967, entered upon a new experience regardless of whether we had previous legislative experience, because we were embarking upon the drafting of a Constitution for the State of Maryland, not in the eighteenth or nineteenth century but in the twentieth century. We had no guidelines. We had no clear course marked out for us. We had only the good will, the abilities, and the intense desire of every delegate to work to his utmost to achieve the same end.

In the course of these past four months during which it has been my honor to be President, I have as you know talked privately on numerous occasions with many delegates when issues appeared to develop that were divisive, that could create factions and destroy the fellowship that had grown up about us.

We succeeded in every instance in weathering the gale with results, compromises if you will, but results that if they were not completely satisfactory to all delegates were certainly not unsatisfactory. It was very unfortunate that as we neared the end of our labors there developed a severe division over this one issue and as I am sure all of you know, the most intense efforts were made in the past few weeks to arrive in this instance also at a solution which if not completely satisfactory to everyone was at least not unsatisfactory.

This has not been achieved. However, I am struck by two things which have been driven upon me with increasing force in