

We may not always agree with the Fourth Estate but we all realize they are intelligent, objective observers of what goes on down here. This man was selected by them as the outstanding man.

The personal experience to which I refer was merely this. It gave me insight as far as the character of this man. I did not know Jim Clark well at all until this very year. I heard about him for many years, but I did not really know him personally. Maryland was confronted with something that was about to become a scandal, the second mortgage business. Two years ago we tried to get a bill through the legislature and it did not get very far. We tried again last year. This year I went to see Jim Clark. This is the situation that confronted him when I walked in his office and he did not know why I had made the appointment.

After years of hard work in behalf of the revolving credit bill, a very complex, difficult, controversial thing, he was on the verge of success. It was by no means certain that the bill would pass but it appeared that he had a good chance of succeeding. I went in and told him I had several members of the Maryland Senate who were prepared to co-sponsor a bill that would deal with the second mortgage racket but frankly these gentlemen were junior in rank and I needed someone of his stature to carry the ball.

This was a difficult thing for him because I was asking him to handle a hot potato just as he was about to see fruition for something he had worked on for a long time. With no hesitancy, but with deliberate analysis over a period of one or two hours, we reviewed the situation. I left and Senator Clark had still not given his full answer. I came back the next day and he said, I will be happy to do this.

I mention this, I apologize for the personal aspect of it, but it gave me insight into the character of the man.

For these two reasons I have the pleasure of nominating him for First Vice President of the Maryland Constitutional Convention, Honorable James Clark. I apologize. I mentioned him in passing and I did not properly conclude the nomination of Honorable James Clark from Howard County.

THE PRESIDENT: Delegate James Clark has been nominated for the office of First Vice President. Is there a second? Delegate Hanson.

DELEGATE HANSON: Mr. President, with a great deal of pleasure, I second the nomination of Delegate James Clark for First Vice President of this Convention. Those of us who supported him for President of the Convention supported him, not because we like others less, but because we like Jim.

I can only emphasize what Delegate O'Connor has mentioned in his nominating speech. Jim Clark is a man of quiet urgency and a man of calm judgment. He is, I believe, after some six or seven years of working with him and beside him on a number of endeavors in this State, one of the most skilled and resourceful negotiators that I have ever seen at work. He has the capacity to draw out opposing opinions and find those areas of agreement and urge on the combatants to a compromise that can work.

There are few men, I think, who have this almost divine capacity to find the areas of agreement. In this Convention we shall have areas of disagreement and a great premium will have to be on those men who can find the areas where we agree.

It is for this personal attribute particularly that I am pleased to second the nomination of James Clark.

THE PRESIDENT: Delegate Murray.

DELEGATE MURRAY: Mr. President, I should like to claim the privilege of further seconding the Clark nomination. Jotting down several things here while waiting, I then tried to determine which was the most important. As with all men, I think, integrity is the basic thing. If he lacks this, then nothing else he has would make him a proper candidate. His integrity is known, his legislative ability is known, and he has a basic down to earth simplicity which helps to enable him to talk to the average man and influence his decision. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The next delegate to be recognized for the purpose of making the nomination is Delegate Scanlan. Please approach the rostrum.

DELEGATE SCANLAN: Mr. President, fellow delegates, in placing the name of the last nominee for the First Vice Presidency, I come with an advantage and disadvantage. I come with the advantage that the previous speakers have ticked off for you the various attributes that one should expect in a Vice President of this Convention.