

staffed by a carefully selected judiciary.

For the first time all Maryland counties will have "home rule" to enable them to solve their own problems without the necessity of seeking solutions from the General Assembly.

The new Constitution itself is only one-third as long as the present document and its language has been updated to make it more understandable to its readers.

Following careful study of the new Constitution, Marylanders must make an important decision. In doing so they should keep in mind the words Benjamin Franklin spoke in 1787 when he decided to vote for the Constitution of the United States:

"... I doubt whether any other convention we can obtain may be able to make a better Constitution. For when you assemble a number of men, to have the advantage of their joint wisdom,

you inevitably assemble with those men all their prejudices, their passions, their errors of opinion, their local interests, and their selfish views. It therefore astonishes me, Sir, to find this system approaching so near to perfection as it does . . . Thus, I consent to this Constitution, Sir, because I expect no better, and because I am not sure that it is not the best."

Like Franklin, some Marylanders may not agree with all provisions of the Constitution which has been adopted by the Convention. However, Maryland citizens must judge the entire document and decide whether or not the new Constitution as a whole will serve our State and its citizens more effectively than the present document. After a thoughtful review of the new and the old constitutions, Maryland voters will be prepared to make this important decision for Maryland on May 14, 1968.