

It is fashionable nowadays for speakers to indulge in the topic of the vast changes which have taken place in our society. And indeed, with all the changes that we see about us, it is a topic which is hard to evade. It is refreshing, therefore, when on occasion we discover that some things change so little; or, as the French proverb goes, the more it changes the more it remains the same.

Last year, I was asked to speak before a group in New Jersey, the occasion being the observance of the three-hundredth anniversary of the founding of that State. In the preparation of my remarks, I engaged in a little research to compare our two States, among other things the roles they played in the drafting of our Federal Constitution.

It is most interesting today to reflect upon the deliberation of that body of statesmen who in Philadelphia wrote this great document. We Marylanders recall with a measure of pride that the idea of a "more perfect union," as expressed in the Preamble of the Constitution, had its birth in the capital of Maryland, in the celebrated Annapolis Convention of 1786.

It was at that Convention that Hamilton and Madison drafted a resolution pointing up "important defects of the system of federal government . . . of a nature so serious . . . as to render the situation of the United States delicate and critical."

At the meeting at Annapolis, a call was issued for another convention in Philadelphia the following year, and it was at the latter convention, of course, that the Federal Constitution was framed. New Jersey, with strong dedication to state sovereignty, was the author of a plan of government which, when finally melded with that of Virginia, became the basic structure of our federal system—a system which, with only relatively minor modification, has served our Republic throughout its history.

It was this meeting in Philadelphia that I should like to discuss. For not only was our charter of government drafted there, but laid out by those wise and enlightened statesmen who met in Philadelphia in 1787 to perfect their union of states.

Interestingly enough, and ironically enough, the main issue at the constitutional convention in Philadelphia in 1787 was what today we call the issue of "fair representation"—an issue which has plagued, and is plaguing, our three co-equal and co-ordinate branches of government. Madison, in his journal, summed up the matter in these words: "the great difficulty," he wrote, "lies in the affair of representation and if this could be adjusted, all others would be surmountable." Madison went on to say that the two gentlemen from New Jersey—