

work in this project, and we expect that a convention will be called to draft a new Constitution in 1967—the one-hundredth birthday of the present constitutional document.

A third step in the modernization plan is the updating and reorganization of the executive arm of government whose responsibility it is to carry out public policy and provide a vast range of services to the people. There are at present 105 executive departments, commissions and other special operations established by law. There are another 43 special commissions, making nearly 150 in all. Many of these have come into being haphazardly over many decades. Some of the agencies are overlapping, others are obsolete. The administrative machinery of State government is badly in need of overhauling, and just a few days ago I set up a commission of distinguished Maryland citizens to study and propose a plan for the modernization of the administrative organization.

When I leave the office of Governor next January, after occupying it for eight years, I expect to leave to my successor a State government in sound financial condition, with a triple-A credit rating. I intend that he shall find government services and government programs adequately financed and operating smoothly according to plan. I intend that he shall find State institutions amply staffed, amply equipped and performing in a satisfactory manner the functions they were established to perform. These are some of the things that I shall leave as a legacy to the people of Maryland, with the hope and the prayer that they will be used for the enrichment of their lives through better government.

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ADDRESS, CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION  
REFERENDUM WORKSHOP

BALTIMORE

July 19, 1966

Judge Gray, Attorney General Finan, Mr. Eney, members of the Constitutional Convention Commission and of the Citizens Committee on the Constitutional Convention Referendum, ladies and gentlemen:

It is exceedingly gratifying to me to see this display of interest in a question of great importance to the people of Maryland—the calling of a convention to revise our State Constitution. As all of you know here, I am sure, this is a matter in which I have a great personal