

regrets at his inability to be present today because of circumstances which had arisen.

I was given to understand that the President would be pleased to have the invitation remain open, and on behalf of the Convention, I have, therefore, indicated that the invitation will remain open; and if the President can address us at some future session, I have indicated that we will arrange a special session, if necessary.

I wish also to announce that the Governor of the State is unable to be here, and to read a telegram from him which I received this morning. The telegram addressed to me as President of the Convention is as follows:

"My very best wishes to you and all of the Delegates to the Constitutional Convention as you begin this project so vital to our State's interests. I regret that my attendance at the Southern Governors' Conference precludes my being with you at present, but my thoughts are with you in this historic undertaking, and I look forward to being with you soon. Good luck. Spiro T. Agnew, Governor."

I might add that I have written to the Governor formally and also conferred with him privately, and on behalf of the Convention, extended to him an invitation to address the Convention, to submit to it any suggestions which he may have for consideration by the Convention, or to mention to the Convention any problems of the state government which he deems appropriate. The Governor has indicated that he will do so, and appropriate arrangements will be made for this, probably within the next ten days.

I also want to read a telegram which I received this morning from the Honorable Daniel B. Brewster, United States Senator:

"Please accept and extend to the Delegates to the Maryland Constitutional Convention my sincere best wishes for a fruitful session. The opening of the Convention today marks a milestone in the long and noteworthy history of our State. It also presents a unique opportunity to establish the course of future progress with the constitutional guidelines that are the hallmark of a free society. This is truly a momentous occasion for Maryland. I share with the other citizens of our State a sense of pride in the present and hope for the future, as your deliberations begin, and I wish you every measure of success."

I understand that Senator Tydings is here today, although I have not seen him.

I also have a telegram from the Honorable Hervey G. Machen, Member of Congress from the Fifth District of Maryland:

"I regret that I will be unable to attend the opening session of the Constitutional Convention. My best wishes for success in this historic endeavor. I am sure the Convention will produce a new Constitution which will meet all of the needs and hopes of the Free State."

It gives me great pleasure to point out what I am sure is obvious to you, that we are today honored by the presence of a number of state officials, including Attorney General Burch, Comptroller Goldstein, Deputy Attorney General Sweeney, Mayor McKeldin and numerous others.

There will be no meetings of committees this afternoon, and no further session of this Convention today after the adjournment; but at this time, I would like to call on each committee chairman to announce the time and place of his next meeting. We will take those in order. I call on Delegate Kiefer, Chairman of the Committee on Personal Rights and the Preamble.

DELEGATE KIEFER: Mr. President, the Committee on Personal Rights and the Preamble will meet tomorrow morning at 9:00 A.M. on the second floor of the Jeffrey Building, which is where a suite of offices assigned to us are located. I might say these offices will be open this afternoon after this meeting is over, and I hope members of the Committee will stop by to get acquainted with our setup.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, sir. The Chair recognizes Delegate Koss, Chairman of the Committee on Suffrage and Elections.

DELEGATE KOSS: Mr. President, the Committee on Suffrage and Elections will meet tomorrow morning at 9:00 A.M. in its offices in the Shaw House. Likewise, the offices will be open this afternoon, and we will welcome members to drop by.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. I might add a comment at this point. Some of you may be wondering about this. I am almost tempted to say to Delegate Koss that we will have to have her repeat that statement for history. The proceedings of the Convention are being stenographically reported, as you can observe, and in addition are being recorded on tape, a tape which will be duplicated and the original sent ultimately to the Hall of Records, with copies to various libraries throughout the State.

The tape recorder is wired into the microphone system. You cannot control your