

READING CLERK: Delegate White.

*(Applause.)*

*(The Honorable John W. White, Jr., Delegate from the Fourth District, Baltimore City, seated at the historic desk from the Old Senate Chamber, affixed his signature to the draft constitution.)*

READING CLERK: Delegate Willis.

*(Applause.)*

*(The Honorable Charles W. Willis, Delegate from Harford County, seated at the historic desk from the Old Senate Chamber, affixed his signature to the draft constitution.)*

READING CLERK: Delegate Willoner.

*(Applause.)*

*(The Honorable Ronald Willoner, Delegate from the Second District, Prince George's County, seated at the historic desk from the Old Senate Chamber, affixed his signature to the draft constitution.)*

THE PRESIDENT: The Clerk will ring the quorum bell.

The Convention will please come to order.

I cannot resist at this moment mentioning several things. Sometimes I feel that we plan too well. The Secretary went to a great deal of trouble to have pens that you not only could keep as a memento of this occasion, but which would also contain indelible ink which was guaranteed to last at least 100 years without fading.

I asked him if it would not be possible to eradicate at least some part of my signature to make it more legible. He said, "You wanted it to stay."

*(Laughter.)*

One other thing I want to mention because it illustrates the great extent to which all of you have gone to make this truly magnificent gift of a mace to me mean so very, very much.

I heard the resolution read adopting the mace as the duplicate original mace of this Convention. I did not know at that time, and I did not know until while the signing was going on, that all of you, but not me, were in on the secret that this mace was actually brought into the chamber and used as the official mace of this proceeding.

I cannot imagine any attention to detail that would surpass that, and I cannot tell

you how very much it adds, it immeasurably adds, to that mace. It truly is the duplicate original mace, and I shall always cherish it as such.

It also proves very conclusively something else that I had long suspected, but I now have absolute proof beyond the slightest doubt.

The President of this Convention indeed did now know everything that was going on.

*(Applause.)*

I am still a little astonished at how it was possible for 142 delegates, and I do not know how many additional people of the staff, to keep that secret so closely guarded that I had not the slightest suspicion of it.

On a pleasant note, I think it is interesting, and I know you will want to hear of it, that today, as a very historic date, is also a very important date to one who has played a very large role in preparing for this Convention and seeing it through to this day. Today happens to be, among other things, the 31st birthday of the Chief of Staff, John C. Brooks.

*(Applause.)*

I have been asked to advise you about several more, more mundane matters. Your pay checks will be sent to you by mail, as will also be the expense checks, and to those delegates who have requested copies of the transcript, they will be forwarded by mail—not first class mail, but the cheapest possible method of getting it there.

The Chair recognizes Delegate Needle.

DELEGATE NEEDLE: Mr. President, on this most memorable day of my life, I would like to recognize in the balcony my family: my wife, Sue, who has been here on a number of occasions and who has come to know and grow fond of so many of the delegates, and my parents who have not been here before, whom I am so proud of, who happen to be celebrating their 45th wedding anniversary. I hope you will give them a very warm welcome.

*(Applause.)*

THE PRESIDENT: Delegate Koss.

DELEGATE KOSS: Mr. President and fellow delegates: when Delegate Tawes was making the introductory remarks preliminary to the presentation of the