

of some of the brightest, most learned, and deeply committed individuals, and above all, the constitution they formulated, served the state well.

Government in the State of Maryland is much different today than it would have been had the Constitutional Convention of 1967-1968 not been held. Legislative action subsequent to the defeat of the proposed constitution resulted in a major reorganization of state government, especially of the executive and judicial branches. The members of the Constitutional Convention sought to provide greater accountability, a more rational organization of governmental functions, and a reduction in the layers of bureaucracy. In exploring and articulating means to achieve these goals, the members of the Constitutional Convention Commission and the Constitutional Convention captured the spirit of the times, and much of what they advocated was subsequently adopted by the General Assembly and ratified by the voters as amendments to the Constitution of 1867.

Perhaps the most prescient statement of the ultimate value and meaning of the Constitutional Convention came from the only delegate who refused to endorse the proposed new constitution. In explaining his inability to support that document, Delegate Philip H. Dorsey noted: "I feel the work here and the work that was done by the commission prior to the meeting of this Convention will not be lost, because I feel that it will be a reference work in the reform of government in this State for the next century."¹⁹ And so it has been, at least thus far. In the wake of failure, much good for the State of Maryland resulted from the Constitutional Convention Commission and the Constitutional Convention of 1967-1968, and much can be learned today about the Constitution of 1867 from the *Debates* of the Convention called to write its replacement.

¹⁹ Ibid., p. 3388.