

1 When I came here last September, I decided that
2 I would not take the floor at any time on any subject. I
3 assure you, however, that this in no way reflected a lack
4 of interest in the many provocative, challenging and
5 stimulating proposals we have faced during these sessions.
6 On the contrary, my interest in every proposal has been
7 deep and abiding, and let me say that I have been sorely
8 tempted from time to time to enter into the discussions,
9 particularly on occasions when the outlook on some
10 proposals which I considered to be of special importance
11 appeared to be in deep trouble. But in the end, I stuck by
12 my original plan feeling, as I did, that my role in creating
13 this Convention and my activity here might in some way be
14 interpreted as being in conflict.

15 I would suppose that I have probably spent more
16 time in the political arena than anyone else here -- more
17 than 36 years. I can think of no greater good fortune,
18 as I reach these twilight years of my life, than to have
19 been able to come here, as I have, and climax this career
20 in public life in an endeavor such as this in which we
21 have attempted to forge a basic law that will serve