

1 to be hailed as one of the greatest ever forged by human  
2 beings, our own Federal Constitution.

3 At that time, on September 17, 1787, there were  
4 grave misgivings and serious doubts among the group. And  
5 of those who entertained some doubts was one Benjamin  
6 Franklin, then 81 years of age, with a career already behind  
7 him that had not been, and still has not been, excelled in  
8 the history of our Nation.

9 The venerable Doctor Franklin confessed that  
10 there were parts of the document he did not approve -- and  
11 I think this has been quoted on the floor of our Convention  
12 by a delegate a few weeks ago, but I believe it bears  
13 repeating on this occasion, and I quote from him -- "But  
14 I am not sure," he said, "I shall never approve them. For  
15 having lived long, I have experienced many instances of being  
16 obliged by better information or full consideration, to  
17 change opinions, even on important subjects, which I once  
18 thought right but found to be otherwise.

19 "In these sentiments, Sir" -- I am still quoting  
20 -- "I agree to this Constitution with all its faults, if  
21 they are such, because I think a general government