

Boston Independent Chronicle, 4 October 1787

Mess'rs ADAMS & NOURSE, The plan offered by the Convention is of the greatest consideration to the United States. Without a national system of government, we shall soon become a prey to the nations of the earth; our commerce will become contemptible, and our boasted expectations terminate in disgrace. We cannot but have domestic and foreign enemies, who would most cordially rejoice at our misfortunes: Indeed it would be for the interest of the other nations, to keep us in our divided and distracted condition. The emissaries of these, by anonymous productions, will probably fill the press with objections against the report of the Convention. But as every American has a right to his own sentiments on the subject, so he must have liberty to publish them. The press ought to be free. Yet he cannot be a friend to his country, who upon a production on the subject, will conceal his name. Therefore, it is submitted to you, gentlemen, and the other Printers in the State, whether it will be best to publish any production, where the author chooses to remain concealed.

Cite as: The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution Digital Edition, ed. John P. Kaminski, Gaspare J. Saladino, Richard Leffler, Charles H. Schoenleber and Margaret A. Hogan. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2009.

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