



CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTION

csac.history.wisc.edu > Document Collections > Constitutional Debates: Federalist and Antifederalist Essays > The Debate Over Amendments to the Constitution > The New York Federal Republican Committee Seeks Interstate Cooperation in Obtaining Amendments to the Constitution

William Grayson to John Lamb Richmond, Va., 9 June 1788

I recieved your letter by Colo. Oswald, and the same evening laid it before the Commee. of Opposition: they have directed the Chairman [George Mason] to answer it by Colo. Oswald:— some of our proposed amendments are finished in the Commee.; the others will be forwarded as soon as agreed on:

I am sorry to observe to you that our affairs in the Convention are suspended by a hair: I really cannot tell you on which side the scale will turn: the difference I am satisfied on the main question will be exceedingly small indeed:—

The Governor has declared in favor of the Constitution without amendments before adoption: this however has not injured us:—neither has the news of the ratification of South Carolina:¹ the opposition upon the whole is firm & united; there are seven or eight dubious characters, whose opinions are not known & on whose decisions the fate of this important question will ultimately depend: should all of them be on the other side it will make a majority of four or five agt. us.

You will be pleased to consider this in the light of a private letter; at all events so far, as to prevent my being quoted in the public newspaper.—I will do myself the pleasure of giving you the earliest notice of the final decision of this Assembly; should we be strong enough to command the question, I think it will be highly expedient for the Convention to open a correspondence with yours: this however is my sentimts. not knowing how others will think on the occasion.

1. News of South Carolina's ratification reached Norfolk by vessel on 3 June, and the next day it was received by members of the Virginia Convention in Richmond.

CITE AS: John P. Kaminski et al., eds., *The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution*, Vol. XVIII: Commentaries on the Constitution, Public and Private [6] (Madison, Wis.: Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 1995), 38–39, 62.