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Thomas McKean to Robert Magaw Philadelphia, 28 August 1788 (excerpt)

. . . It is reported here, that there is to be a convention at Louisburg [i.e., Harrisburg] on the 3d. of next month relating to the new Constitution. The motives for this I have not learnt. I have some apprehensions, that such meetings may prove injurious to good order, and therefore wish that they may not be drawn into practice, nor ever had but upon great and necessary occasions. Persons thus assembled are too apt to work themselves up to an opinion that they are a public legal body, instead of so many individuals collected together; and sometimes assume and exercise actual authority, which must always have a tendency to weaken if not disturb the regular government. May their zeal be tempered with prudence. . . .

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