



CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTION

csac.history.wisc.edu > Document Collections > The Founding Period and Slavery > The New England States Debate Slavery and the Constitution > Debates Over the 3/5 Clause

CORNELIUS

Springfield *Hampshire Chronicle*, December 18, 1787

In the case of direct taxation, the rule of apportionment among the several States, I take to be very unequal, and in its operation, will prove exceedingly injurious to the Eastern States. These States, compared with the Southern, have always abounded in people more than in wealth; and from the nature of their climate and soil, will forever continue to do the same. Yet, by this rule of apportionment, a great allowance is made in favour of the Southern States: Three free persons, including those bound to service for a term of years, being reckoned equal to five slaves. In the Eastern States there are but few slaves; in Massachusetts, there are none. There are in that State, a large number of negroes; and in apportioning the taxes, three of these negroes are to be reckoned equal to five in the Southern States.

CITE AS: John P. Kaminski ed., *A Necessary Evil?*, Constitutional Heritage Series, Vol. II (Madison House, Madison, Wis. 1995), 78.