

Marquis de Lafayette to George Washington, Paris, 4 February 1788 (excerpts)

Your letters Become More and More distant, and I Anxiously Wish for Your Speedy Appointment to the Presidency, in order that You May Have a More Exact Notice of the Opportunities to Write to Me....

We are Anxiously Waiting for the Result of the State Conventions—the New Constitution Has Been Much Examined and Admired By European Philosophers—It Seems the Want of a declaration of Rights, of An Insurance for the trial By juries, of a Necessary Rotation of the President, are, With the Extensive Powers of the Executive, the Principal Points objected to.—Mr Jefferson and Myself Have Agreed that those objections Appear'd to Us Both Well Grounded, But that None Should Be Started Untill Nine States Had Accepted the Confederation—then Amendments, if thought Convenient, Might Be Made to take in the dissidents—as to What Respects the Powers and Possible Permanency of the President I am Easy, Nay I am Pleased With it, as the Reducing of it to What is Necessary for Energy, and taking from it Every dangerous Seed Will Be a Glorious Sheet in the History of My Beloved General....

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