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Connecticut, 23 June 1778

*Governor and Council of Safety, 16 December 1777*¹

Advised, That His Excellency the Governor procure three hundred copies of the Articles of Confederation lately received from Congress, and order that the printer transmit one such copy to [the] selectmen of each town in this state as soon as possible, and the remainder to the General Assembly at their adjourned session at Hartford on the 8th day of January next.

*Instructions to the Delegates in Congress, February 1778*²

The Articles of Confederation and perpetual Union proposed by Congress to be entered into by the thirteen United States of America being laid before this Assembly by His Excellency the Governor were read and maturely considered. Whereupon,

Resolved, as the opinion of this Assembly, That said Articles in general appear to be well adapted to cement and preserve the union of said states, to secure their freedom and independence and promote their general welfare: but that with some amendments they may be rendered more perfect, equitable and satisfactory. Wherefore the delegates of this state are hereby instructed to propose to the consideration of Congress the following amendments, viz.:

1. That in the eighth Article, as a rule for determining each state's proportion of the common expense, instead of the value of the lands, buildings, etc., as expressed in said Article, be inserted the number of inhabitants in each state; this being in the opinion of this Assembly a more certain, equitable and practicable rule than the other. Trade and manufactures, which employ and support great numbers of inhabitants, being sources of wealth to a state as well as the produce of lands; besides it will be very difficult, if not impossible, to obtain such an estimate of the value of the lands and buildings in the United States as would do justice or give satisfaction to the several states.

2. That next after the fifth paragraph in the 9th Article be inserted the following clause, viz.: Provided, That no land army shall be kept up by the United States in time of peace, nor any officers or pensioners kept in pay by them who are not in actual service, except such as are or may be rendered unable to support themselves by wounds received in battle in the service of said states, agreeable to the provision already made by a resolution of Congress.

The foregoing amendments being agreed to in substance may be made in such manner and form as Congress shall think proper.

And whereas other amendments may be proposed by some of the other states, and it being highly expedient for the welfare and security of the said states that the Articles of Confederation be finally concluded and ratified as soon as possible, therefore,

Resolved, That the delegates of this state who shall be present in Congress be and they are hereby fully authorized and empowered in behalf of this state to agree to and ratify the said Articles of Confederation with such amendments, if any be, as by them in conjunction with the delegates of the other states in Congress shall be thought proper.

Journals of Congress, 23 June 1778

The delegates from Connecticut being called upon for the report of their constituents produced instructions to move certain amendments. Whereupon, they moved in behalf of the state in the 8th Article to strike out what follows the words “in proportion to” to the end of the sentence, and in lieu thereof to insert “the number of inhabitants in each state.”

Question put.

Passed in the negative: 3 Ayes, 9 Noes.

In the 9th Article, at the end of the 5 paragraph to add the words following: “Provided that no land army shall be kept up by the united states in time of peace, nor any officers or pensioners kept in pay by them, who are not in actual service except such as are or may be rendered unable to support themselves by wounds received in battle in the service of the said states agreeably to the provisions already made by a resolution of Congress.”

Question put.

Passed in the negative: 1 Aye, 11 Noes.

1. The Council met at Lebanon, home of Governor Jonathan Trumbull, Sr.

2. According to the Governor’s message opening the February 1778 session at Hartford, the legislature had considered the Articles of Confederation in January. The General Assembly met from 12 February 1778 until the first week or two in March, but the date the instructions were adopted cannot be determined.

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