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North Carolina Signs, 21 July 1778

Report of a Joint Committee of the Senate and the House of Commons, 19 December 1777¹

That the first, second, third, eighth, and twelfth articles, the second and third sections of the fourth and the last section of the ninth articles of the Confederation recommended by Congress ought to be immediately ratified; and the delegates for this state ought to be instructed and empowered accordingly, and that the remaining clauses, articles, and sections thereof containing matters highly important and interesting to the future people of this state, and involving what may very materially affect the internal interests and sovereign independence thereof, and not immediately essential to the success of the present war, ought not to be ratified until there shall be full time and leisure for maturely and deliberately considering the same, and until upon such mature and deliberate consideration the same shall be approved.

The Senate, 22 December 1777

On motion, Resolved, That James Davis, Esquire, be authorized to print the Articles of Confederation of the United States proposed to be laid before the legislatures of the respective states, and that he be obliged to send twelve copies thereof to each county in this state, and one copy to every member of this present General Assembly, and that for printing and sending the Confederation, and for printing and sending the Acts and Journals of the last session of this General Assembly to the justices and representatives of the several counties, be allowed the sum of five hundred and fifty pounds, and that the said Articles, Journals, and Acts, and the Acts and Journals of this session be delivered to the several county court clerks within three months after [the] expiration of this session of the General Assembly.

House of Commons, 24 December 1777

We propose that those sections of the Articles of the Confederation that were agreed to be ratified in Congress, should be fairly transcribed and signed by the speakers of both houses of this Assembly and transmitted to Congress by Mr. [Thomas] Burke to be there ratified.

House of Commons, 24 April 1778

Resolved unanimously, That the delegates of this state in Congress be empowered on behalf thereof to ratify and confirm the said Confederation of the United States.

The General Assembly to Governor Richard Caswell, New Bern, 25 April 1778

The two houses of the General Assembly have taken into consideration the Confederacy proposed to the United States by the Continental Congress, and have unanimously acceded

thereto, and request Your Excellency will be pleased to inform the President of the Continental Congress thereof, by the earliest opportunity.

Governor Richard Caswell to Henry Laurens, President of Congress, New Bern, 26 April 1778 (excerpt)

I have the honor to enclose a message from the General Assembly to me, informing me that they have acceded to the Articles of Confederation, proposed to the United States by Congress—to which I beg leave to refer. . . .

Journals of Congress, 25 June 1778

Delaware and North Carolina not having delegates present in Congress, no report was received from them saving what is contained in Governor Caswell's letter informing that the legislature of North Carolina have agreed to the Articles of Confederation.

Journals of Congress, 21 July 1778

Pursuant to the powers in them vested, the delegates of North Carolina signed the ratification of the Articles of Confederation in behalf of their state.

1. The legislature received copies of the Articles of Confederation and other resolves and papers of Congress from Governor Richard Caswell on 15 December 1777. The documents were referred to a joint committee of both houses on 18 December, and the committee's report was adopted the next day.

CITE AS: John P. Kaminski et al., eds., *The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution*, Vol. I: Constitutional Documents and Records, 1776–1787 (Madison, Wis.: Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 1976), 124–26.