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New York Convention Debates and Proceedings 28 June 1788 (excerpts)

. . . JOHN LANSING, JR. It is admitted by a Gent. (Mr. [Hamilton])

That the State Govts. must exist and were necessary to civil Liberty

They must be hostile—This was a genl Sentimt. in Convention—This the Sentimt. of the Gent in Convention—That he wished to Subvert the Individual State Govts. or reduce them to the Situation of Corporations—

That it was the general received Opinion that a Hostility would exist.

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ALEXANDER HAMILTON here interrupted Mr. Lansing, and contradicted, in the most positive terms, the charge of inconsistency included in the preceding observations.

HAMILTON. There would be a rivalship of Power—That the danger was that the State Govts. would Subvert the National Government

It was not the prevailing opinion that the State Govts would be subverted.—He says that I tho't the *Subversion* of the State Govt Necessary—

I wish to have an Extensive State Govt. but advanced as a Reason that the State Governmts. should carry Govts. Home

The System fell Short of my Ideas in the Convention—

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CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS. This produced a warm personal altercation between those gentlemen, which engrossed the remainder of the day. As this dispute was of a delicate nature, and as a statement of the circumstances, however cautiously formed, may wear a complexion not perfectly satisfactory to the parties; the Editor presumes, that the public will excuse an entire omission of the subject.

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JOHN LANSING, JR.¹ The Honoble. Member will recollect he said between the Individual States and the united States there would be hostility—

The Member wanted to place them in the Quality of Corporations—

None of their Laws to take Effect without an Officer of the united States present—

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ALEXANDER HAMILTON. I Supposed a Rivalship of Power—I was for giving additional Cautions in favor of the National Govt.

I held up the State Govts. as necessary to the Support of Government

I think it highly improper and uncandid for a Gent. to mention in this Committee Argumts. by me used in that Convention—

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JOHN LANSING, JR. I am charged with being uncandid & improper

Behavior—I did not at first express the matter as full as it came out afterwards—

I was compelled to it—The Matters of that Convention were no longer Secrete when their proceedings were published—

The Convention have a right to call on us—

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ALEXANDER HAMILTON. A disingenu[i]ty is imputed to me—That Honorable Member ought to retract it—It is improper to be here introduced—because if my Sentiments were improper—the Convention tho't differently—To bring forth Individial Sentiments to operate agt. the Acts of Convention—

I. According to Lansing, as he was about to rise to respond to Hamilton, James Duane “interposed and requested that an End might be put to the Altercation.”

CITE AS: John P. Kaminski et al., eds., *The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution*, Vol. XXII: New York [4] (Madison, Wis.: Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 2008), 2004–5.