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Abraham Clark's Motion

Journals of Congress, 27 September 1787

A motion was made by Abraham Clarke seconded by Nathaniel Mitchel to postpone the consideration of that motion [Lee's] in order to take up the following: "That a copy of the Constitution agreed to and laid before Congress by the late Convention of the several states with their resolutions and the letter accompanying the same be transmitted to the executives of each state to be laid before their respective legislatures in order to be by them submitted to conventions of delegates to be chosen agreeably to the said resolutions of the Convention."¹

1. Ten months later, on 23 July 1788, Clark explained in a letter to Thomas Sinnickson of Salem, N.J., that "I never liked the system in all its parts. I considered it from the first, more a consolidated government than a federal, a government too expensive and unnecessarily oppressive in its operation; creating a judiciary undefined and unbounded. With all these imperfections about it, I nevertheless wished it to go to the states from Congress just as it did, without any censure or commendation, hoping that in case of a general adoption, the wisdom of the states would soon amend it in the exceptionable parts."

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), 330.