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Over Religious Tests > In Support of Religious Tests

Luther Martin: Genuine Information XII Baltimore *Maryland Gazette*, 8 February 1788 (excerpt)

Mr. MARTIN'S Information to the House of Assembly, concluded.

The part of the system, which provides that *no religious test* shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States, was adopted by a very great majority of the convention, and without much debate,¹—however, there were some members *so unfashionable* as to think that a *belief of the existence of a Deity*, and of a *state of future rewards and punishments* would be some security for the good conduct of our rulers, and that in a Christian country it would be at *least decent* to hold out some distinction between the professors of Christianity and downright infidelity or paganism. . . .

1. On 30 August the Constitutional Convention adopted this clause unanimously. The only recorded opposition to it was made by Roger Sherman who “thought it unnecessary, the prevailing liberality being a sufficient security agst. such tests.”

CITE AS: John P. Kaminski et al., eds., *The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution*, Vol. XVI: Commentaries on the Constitution, Public and Private [4] (Madison, Wis.: Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 1986), 89–94.