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South Carolina, 18–19 January 1790

Introduction

On 4 January 1790, Governor Charles Pinckney transmitted materials to both houses of the South Carolina legislature, which included Congress' proposed twelve amendments to the Constitution. On 18 January 1790, the House adopted all twelve proposed amendments, called on Congress to propose the amendments recommended by the South Carolina Convention. On 19 January, the Senate concurred with the Assembly and sent the ratified amendments back to Governor Pinckney. On 28 January, Governor Charles Pinckney transmitted the legislature's ratification to President George Washington, who received the letter 31 March 1790.

Governor Charles Pinckney to the South Carolina Assembly, Columbia, S.C.

4 January 1790 (excerpt)

. . . During your Recess, the General Government of the Union has been formed by the assembling of the different Branches of the Legislature—and the qualification of the Executive.— You will receive Copies of all the Acts & Resolutions passed during their late Session, which have been officially transmitted by the President for that purpose. One which will claim your immediate Attention is, the Resolution proposing Amendments to the Constitution of the United States.—These amendments are proposed, as Congress declare, in consequence of a number of the States, having at the Time of their adopting the Constitution, expressed a desire, in order to prevent misconstruction, or abuses of its Powers; that further declaratory & restrictive Clauses should be added.—And, as extending the Ground of Confidence will best ensure the beneficent Ends of its Institution.—They have therefore submitted them to the Legislatures of the several states in order that they may be ratified, & become a part of the said Constitution—

I have also the Honor to inclose a Letter from the Governor of New-York transmitting a concurrent Resolution of both Branches of the Legislature of that State, on the Subject of an Application for Congress, for another Convention of Deputies from the several States, to revise & amend the federal Constitution. . . .

South Carolina Assembly Committee Report on Amendments, 8 January 1790

The Committee to whom was referred the resolution of Congress proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States, together with the application of the State of New York to Congress requesting that another general Convention of the states should be convened for the purpose of revising the feederal Constitution. Recommend that the Legislature of this state shall

do agree that the several Amendments proposed by Congress be made part of the Constitution of the United States; & that ~~application shall at the same time be made to the delegates~~ be instructed to apply to Congress to propose the Amendments recommended by the Convention of this state to the legislatures of the several States in order that they may also be made part of the fœderal Constitution.

With Respect to the application of the State of New York for the purpose of convening another general Convention your Committee are of opinion that the measure would at this time be inexpedient & is rendered unnecessary by the Congress having subsequent to the application from New York taken the subject of Amendments to the Constitution under their consideration & proposed the additional Articles the adoption of which your Committee have recommended.

Resolution of the South Carolina Legislature, 18–19 January 1790

South Carolina Assembly Proceedings, Monday, 18 January 1790

In the House of Represent. January 18 1790

The House took into consideration the Amendments as proposed by the Congress of the United States, to the Constitution of the United States Vizt.—

Whereupon

Resolved that this House do adopt the said several Articles and that they become a part of the Constitution of the United States—

Resolved that the Delegates in the Congress of the United States from this State be instructed to apply to Congress to propose the Amendments recommended by the Convention of this State to the Legislatures of the several States in order that they may also be made part of the Fœderal Constitution.

Resolved that the application of the State of New York for the purpose of convening another General Convention would at this time be inexpedient and is rendered unnecessary by the Congress having subsequent to the application from New York taken the subject of Amendments to the Constitution under their consideration—

Ordered that the Resolutions be sent to the Senate for their concurrence—

By order of the House
John Sandford Dart. CHR

South Carolina Senate Proceedings, Tuesday, 19 January 1790

Resolved. That this House do concur with the House of Representatives in the foregoing Resolutions.

Ordered That their Resolutions be sent to the House of Representatives.

By Order of the Senate
Felix Warley. Clk.

South Carolina Act of Ratification, 18–19 January 1790

In the House of Representatives January 18th 1790

THE House took into consideration the Report of the Committee to whom was referred the Resolution of the Congress of the United States of the 4th day of March, 1789 proposing Amendments to the Constitution of the United States.¹ Vizt.

[Here follows the 12 Amendments proposed by Congress]
Which being read through, was agreed to.

Whereupon, Resolved, That this House do adopt the said several articles, and that they become a part of the Constitution of the United States.

Resolved, that the Resolutions be sent to the Senate for their concurrence—

By order of the House
Jacob Read
Speaker of the House Representatives
In the Senate January 19th 1790

Resolved that this House do concur with the House of Representatives in the foregoing Resolutions.

By order of the Senate
D. DeSaussure
President of the Senate.

1. The date “4 March 1789” refers to the date of the opening session of Congress; not the date of the passage of proposed amendments.

Charleston City Gazette, 26 January 1790

The legislature of this state adjourned on Wednesday last, *sine die*, after a short session of 15 days.

The amendments to the constitution of the united states recommended by congress to the several state legislatures were discussed and adopted; and a resolution agreed to, that the delegates from this state be instructed to use every possible exertion to obtain the alteration which was recommended by the state convention in May 1788, respecting the interference of congress in regulating elections to the federal legislature.

Governor Charles Pinckney to President George Washington, Charleston, 28 January 1790

I have the honor to transmit you the entire adoption by the Legislature of this State of the Amendments proposed to the Constitution of the United States.—

I am with the most perfect esteem and Respect.

New York Weekly Museum, 2 April 1790

A message was received [by the U.S. House of Representatives] from the President of the United States by his secretary—with the ratification by South-Carolina of the amendments proposed by Congress to the Constitution of the United States.

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