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Vermont, 3 November 1791

Introduction

On Friday morning, 14 October, Governor Chittenden delivered several public “communications,” among which was the twelve amendments to the Constitution. On Tuesday afternoon, 1 November, the General Assembly resolved that a grand committee consider the proposed amendments. Although not provided in the state constitution, a grand committee consisted of the governor, Council, and Assembly sitting together as a committee of the whole with the governor presiding. The next day, the grand committee voted that the legislature should adopt the amendments. The next morning, 3 November, the Assembly finalized their acceptance of the amendments and sent it to the Governor and Council for concurrence or amendment. The Assembly received the Council’s concurrence in the afternoon. Governor Chittenden ordered the secretary of the Council to send President George Washington a copy of Vermont’s adoption of the amendments, which was done on 7 January 1792. On 18 January, Tobias Lear, Washington’s secretary, notified Secretary of State Jefferson of Vermont’s ratification of the amendments. On 1 March, Jefferson sent letters to the states announcing that ten of the twelve proposed amendments to the Constitution had been adopted.

U.S. Act Admitting Vermont to Statehood, 18 February 1791

An ACT for the Admission of the STATE of VERMONT into the Union.

The State of Vermont having petitioned the Congress to be admitted a member of the United States, *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, and it is hereby enacted and declared,* That on the fourth day of March, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-one, the said State, by the name and stile of “the State of Vermont,” shall be received and admitted into this Union, as a new and entire member of the United States of America.

FREDERICK AUGUSTUS MUHLENBERG,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

JOHN ADAMS, Vice-President of the United States,
and President of the Senate.

APPROVED, February the eighteenth, 1791.

GEORGE WASHINGTON, *President of the United States.*

Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson to Governor Thomas Chittenden, Philadelphia 28 February 1791 (excerpts)

I have the honor to transmit to your Excellency an authenticated copy of the act of Congress for the admission of the State of Vermont into this union. . . .

Permit me at the same time through the channel of your Excellency, to lay before the Legislature of your State an authentic copy of the articles in addition to an amendment of the Constitution of the United States, proposed by Congress to the Legislatures of the several States for their ratification, pursuant to the fifth article of the original Constitution.

Assembly Proceedings, Friday, A.M., 14 October 1791

The Governor and Council appeared in the House.—His Excellency laid before the Legislature several communications from different public offices, among which were the proposals of amendments to the Constitution of the United States, communicated from Congress; which were read, and laid on the table.

Assembly Proceedings, Tuesday, 1 November 1791

Resolved, That to-morrow morning be assigned the time, in Grand Committee, to take into consideration the proposed amendments to the Federal Constitution.

Grand Committee Proceedings, Wednesday, 2 November 1791 (excerpts)

The House met pursuant to adjournment.

The Governor and Council appeared in the House, and in Grand Committee . . . proceeded to take into consideration the amendments proposed to the Constitution of the United States, recommended by Congress; which amendments were read.

Voted, That it be recommended to the Legislature to adopt the amendments to be made to the Constitution of the United States, proposed by Congress to the several States.

Attest, ROS. HOPKINS, Clerk.

The House proceeded to business—and took consideration, and adopted the recommendation of the Grand Committee, respecting the amendments proposed to the Constitution of the United States.

Whereupon,

Ordered, that Mess. Hitchcock, Leavenworth, and Chipman, be appointed a Committee to prepare and bring in a bill for adopting the aforesaid amendments.

. . . A bill entitled, *An act ratifying certain articles proposed by Congress, as amendments to the Constitution of the United States*, was read the first time.

Assembly Proceedings, Thursday, 3 November 1791 (excerpts)

The bill, entitled, *An act ratifying certain articles proposed by Congress, as amendments to the Constitution of the United States*, was read the second time, accepted, and sent to the Governor and Council for revision and concurrence, or proposals of amendment.

. . . The following bills returned from Council concurred, and passed into laws of this State: . . .

An act ratifying certain articles proposed by Congress, as amendments to the Constitution of the United States.

Vermont Act Ratifying Twelve Amendments to the U.S. Constitution, 3 November 1791

An Act ratifying certain articles proposed by Congress as amendments to the Constitution of the United States—

Whereas the Congress of the United States begun and held at the City of New York, on Wednesday the fourth of March one thousand seven hundred and eighty nine—Resolved, that certain articles to the number of twelve be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States as amendments to the Constitution of the United States which articles when ratified by three-fourths of the said Legislatures should be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the said Constitution—Therefore,

It is hereby Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont, That all and every of said articles so proposed as aforesaid be and the same are hereby ratified and confirmed by the Legislature of this State—

[Endorsed] State of Vermont

Secretary of State Office

I hereby Certify that the within is a true copy of an act passed by the Legislature of this State the third day of November One thousand seven hundred and ninety one and deposited in this office according to law—

attest

Ros. Hopkins Secy.

***Governor Thomas Chittenden Certifies Roswell Hopkins as Vermont Secretary of State
Windsor, Vt., 4 November 1791***

By His Excellency Thomas Chittenden Esquire Governor and Captain General in and over the State of Vermont—

I hereby Certify that Roswell Hopkins Esquire is Secretary of State, for this state and that due faith and credit ought to be given to his attestation as secretary of state—

In Testimony whereof I have caused the seal of this state to be affixed at Windsor this fourth day of November One thousand seven hundred and ninety one—

Thos. Chittenden—

Attest, Joseph Fay Secy [of the Governor and Council]

Joseph Fay to President George Washington, Bennington, Vt., 7 January 1792

I am directed by His Excellency Governor Chittenden, to Transmit to you, a Copy of an Act of the Legislature of this State, ratifying sundry articles of Amendments (proposed by Congress) to the Constitution of the United States, which you will receive herewith.

I have the honor to be your Excellency's most obedient and most Humble Servant

Joseph Fay, Secy to the Govr. & Council

President George Washington to Congress, Philadelphia, 18 January 1792

I lay before you a copy of an exemplified copy of an Act of the Legislature of Vermont, ratifying, on behalf of that State, the Articles of amendment proposed by Congress to the Constitution of the United States, together with a copy of a letter which accompanied said ratification.

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