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Debates in the Philadelphia Convention over the Fugitive Slave Clause, 28–29 August 1787

ARTICLE IV, SECTION 2. No Person held to Service or Labour in one State, under the Laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in Consequence of any Law or Regulation therein, be discharged from such Service or Labour, but shall be delivered up on Claim of the Party to whom such Service or Labour may be due.

AUGUST 28

[Report of the Committee of Detail considered on the extradition of criminals from one state to another state.]

Pierce Butler and *Charles Pinckney* moved “to require fugitive slaves and servants to be delivered up like criminals.”

James Wilson. This would oblige the Executive of the State to do it at the public expence.

Roger Sherman saw no more propriety in the public seizing and surrendering a slave or servant, than a horse.

Mr. Butler withdrew his proposition in order that some particular provision might be made apart from this article.

AUGUST 29

Mr. Butler moved to insert after article XV [in the Committee of Detail report as amended on 28 August] “If any person bound to service or labor in any of the United States shall escape into another State, he or she shall not be discharged from such service or labor, in consequence of any regulations subsisting in the State to which they escape, but shall be delivered up to the person justly claiming their service or labor,” which was agreed to *nem. con.*

CITE AS: John P. Kaminski, ed., *A Necessary Evil?*, Constitutional Heritage Series, Vol. II (Madison House, Madison, Wis. 1995), 65.