

***Virginia Independent Chronicle, 19 March 1788***

From Correspondents.

Out of all the members as yet returned to the Convention there are only three or four against the new constitution—and it is the general opinion that there will scarcely be found ten men in the whole state, who, when they meet here in June, will be hardy enough to set their opinions in competition with those of all the great and good patriots in America, and thus suffer themselves to be branded with the *odious* and *disgraceful* appellation of *antifederalists*

Those are to be accounted such who talk of amendments *before* the adoption of the constitution...

It is somewhat remarkable that all who are real friends to the union, and who act honestly and openly, take great pains to remove the groundless prejudices which prevail among the people by distributing copies of the new constitution—whilst, on the other hand, those who are in their hearts against a union—that is, those who talk of amendments *before* ratification—endeavor to keep the people in the *dark* by *telling* them what the constitution is, without *showing* them what it is—or *giving* it to them to read and *judge for themselves*. All their little artifices and low cunning, all their misconstructions and misrepresentations may serve to confirm the obstinate and to deceive the ignorant—but the honest and well meaning with only common understandings see through their designs and despise them for their wickedness—It will be fortunate for them if the resentment of the people should terminate in contempt alone—When they have been misled—it will be but a small consolation to them to be told by those who have deceived them—that they *thought so and so*.—

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