

Roger Alden Memorandum, New York, 21 September 1787

The budget was opened yesterday and the important secret is now exposed to public view, and I hope it will be approved by every individual. I find it meets with the approbation of many of those gentlemen of whose opinion and for whose judgment I have the highest respect, but where we may expect opposition is easy to be conjectured. I can readily make three classes: great men of our own who will lose their consequence, little great men, conscious of their own talents who know they have not abilities to become really great men, and all those who are really enemies to the happiness of the country or have exposed themselves by their crimes, idleness and wickedness to the just laws of society.

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