

## **James Wilson Speech in the Pennsylvania Convention, 1 December 1787 (excerpt)**

JAMES WILSON: ...I beg to make one remark on what one gentleman [Robert Whitehill] has said, with respect to amendments being proposed to this Constitution. To whom are the Convention to make report of such amendments? He tells you, to the present Congress. I do not wish to report to that body, the representatives only of the state governments; they may not be disposed to admit the people into a participation of their power. It has also been supposed, that a wonderful unanimity subsists among those who are enemies to the proposed system. On this point I also differ from the gentleman who made the observation. I have taken every pains in my power, and read every publication I could meet with, in order to gain information; and as far as I have been able to judge, the opposition is inconsiderable and inconsistent. Instead of agreeing in their objections, those who make them bring forward such as are diametrically opposite. On one hand, it is said, that the representation in Congress is too small; on the other, it is said to be too numerous. Some think the authority of the Senate too great; some that of the House of Representatives; and some that of both. Others draw their fears from the powers of the President; and like the iron race of Cadmus, these opponents rise, only to destroy each other. [Lloyd, *Debates*, 55–57]

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