

Samuel Hodgdon to Timothy Pickering, Philadelphia, 29 September 1787 (excerpt)

Yesterday the question for calling a convention to determine on the adoption of the Constitution lately recommended was put. [William] Findley and [Robert] Whithill at the head of 17 others opposed it, but finding the previous question carried, they did not return in the afternoon to the adjournment. The sergeant at arms was sent to command their attendance. Hearing they were at [Alexander] Boyd's, he went there, found them, and delivered his message. Whitehill answered that as there was no house, his orders were impertinent and would not be complied with. This answer being communicated, the Speaker and members forty-five in number, they adjourned until [9:30] o'clock this morning. At 7 o'clock an express arrived from New York, with the agreeable news that Congress (eleven and a half states being present) had unanimously agreed to recommend the new Constitution to the United States. This I suppose will bring the members to the House at the adjournment today, and finish the resolution of yesterday for calling the convention.

Today again the *nineteen* refused giving their attendance. An order was signed for taking them into custody by the sergeant at arms, and the clerk of the House was directed to attend him. A number of volunteer gentlemen also attended him. The whole proceeded to Boyd's where *two* only were found. These were apprehended and brought by force of arms and seated. One of them rose, and plead[ed] duress, and tendered his fine of 5 shillings and demanded liberty to depart, but he was immediately silenced, and the business was introduced and passed as you will perceive by the enclosed paper. This conduct has put an *end* to the Constitutional interest in this city. The principals in the business are universally despised, and their abettors hide their heads. The House having finished this and some other business dissolved themselves, and writs are out for holding an election on the ninth of next month, at which time [John] *Franklin* may try what interest he has yet in your county [Luzerne].

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