

Pennsylvania Herald, 29 September 1787

A correspondent laments the scandal to which our legislature was yesterday exposed by the wanton desertion of *nineteen* of its members. It is thus that the affairs of government may be transferred from the majority to the minority, and the public business must either be transacted conformably to the will of a few men; or, conformably to their will, it must be left undone. The maxim of necessity, which has hitherto been employed to palliate so gross a violation of civil polity, could have no operation in the present case, for the question was merely as to the mode of proceeding to appoint the delegates of a convention, which the House had already agreed it was proper and necessary to summon. Could the matter of *form*, therefore, be magnified into the *necessity*, which excuses an attack upon the fundamental principles of government? Or, was it the mortification of a previous defeat, which introduced this attempt to counteract the end, by denying the means requisite to accomplish it? Whatever was the motive, every honest citizen will deprecate the consequences; and we have only to hope, continues our correspondent, that this event, manifesting the evils of a weak and inefficient government, will excite a constant and universal attachment to a plan of a contrary description. In the meantime, let it be left to the seceding party to reconcile to their constituents and their consciences, a measure which, to a man of plain sense and common honesty, appears a willful deviation from the legislative duties they were appointed to perform.

Cite as: The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution Digital Edition, ed. John P. Kaminski, Gaspare J. Saladino, Richard Leffler, Charles H. Schoenleber and Margaret A. Hogan. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2009.

Canonic URL: <http://rotunda.upress.virginia.edu/founders/RNCN-02-02-02-0001-0004-0003> [accessed 19 Nov 2012]

Original source: Ratification by the States, Volume II: Pennsylvania