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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 23

[Submitted by Mr. Bacon]

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That there shall be compiled, printed with illustrations and bound as may be directed by the Joint Committee on Printing, ten thousand copies of the Madison Debates of the Federal Convention, together with the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, the Constitution, the instructions to the Delegates to the Federal Convention, the instruments of ratification of the States, and the texts of the amendments to the Constitution, and other relevant and pertinent historical documents for distribution in the year 1926 in commemoration of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of the United States of America, to the end "that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth," of which three thousand copies shall be for the use of the Senate and seven thousand copies for the use of the House of Representatives.

Adopted, May 10, 1926.

SELECTED, ARRANGED, AND INDEXED
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Director, Legislative Reference Service
Library of Congress

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CONTENTS

	Page
Declaration and resolves of the First Continental Congress, October 14, 1774..	1-5
Resolves adopted in Charlotte Town, Mecklenburg County, N. C., May 31, 1775..	6-9
Declaration of the causes and necessity of taking up arms, July 6, 1775.....	10-17
Resolution of secrecy adopted by the Continental Congress, November 9, 1775..	18
Preamble and resolution of the Virginia Convention, May 15, 1776, instructing the Virginia Delegates in the Continental Congress to "propose to that re- spectable body to declare the United Colonies free and independent States" ..	19-20
Resolution introduced in the Continental Congress by Richard Henry Lee (Virginia) proposing a Declaration of Independence, June 7, 1776.....	21
Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776.....	22-26
Articles of Confederation, March 1, 1781.....	27-37
Resolution of the General Assembly of Virginia, January 21, 1786, proposing a joint meeting of commissioners from the States to consider and recommend a Federal plan for regulating commerce.....	38
Proceedings of commissioners to remedy defects of the Federal Government, Annapolis, Md., 1786.....	39-43
Report of proceedings in Congress, Wednesday, February 21, 1787.....	44-46
Ordinance of 1787, July 13, 1787.....	47-54
Credentials of the members of the Federal Convention.....	55-84
List of delegates appointed by the States represented in the Federal Convention.	85-86
Notes of Major William Pierce (Georgia) in the Federal Convention of 1787:	
a. Loose sketches and notes taken in the convention, May, 1787.....	87-95
b. Characters in the convention of the States held at Philadelphia, May, 1787.....	96-108
Debates in the Federal Convention of 1787 as reported by James Madison....	109-745
Secret proceedings and debates of the convention assembled at Philadelphia, in the year 1787, for the purpose of forming the Constitution of the United States of America. (From the notes taken by the late Robert Yates, Esq., Chief Jus- tice of New York (Albany, 1821)).....	746-843
Notes of Rufus King in the Federal Convention of 1787.....	844-878
Notes of William Paterson in the Federal Convention of 1787.....	879-912
Notes of Alexander Hamilton in the Federal Convention of 1787.....	913-922
Papers of Dr. James McHenry on the Federal Convention of 1787.....	923-952
Variant texts of the Virginia plan presented by Edmund Randolph to the Fed- eral Convention, May 29, 1787:	
Text A.....	953-956
Text B.....	957-959
Text C.....	960-963
The plan of Charles Pinckney (South Carolina), presented to the Federal Con- vention, May 29, 1787.....	964-966

	Page
Variant texts of the plan presented by William Paterson (New Jersey), to the Federal Convention, June 15, 1787:	
Text A.....	967-970
Text B.....	971-974
Text C.....	975-978
Variant texts of the plan presented by Alexander Hamilton to the Federal Convention, June 18, 1787:	
Text A.....	979-980
Text B.....	981-982
Text C.....	983-984
Text D.....	985-986
Text E.....	987-988
The Constitution of the United States.....	989-1002
Letter of the president of the Federal Convention, September 17, 1787, to the President of Congress, transmitting the Constitution.....	1003-1004
Resolution of the Federal Convention submitting the Constitution to Congress, September 17, 1787.....	1005-1006
Resolution of Congress, September 28, 1787, submitting the Constitution to the several States.....	1007
Circular letter of the Secretary of Congress, September 28, 1787, transmitting copy of the Constitution to the several governors.....	1008
Ratification of the Constitution by the several States, arranged in the order of their ratification.....	1009-1059
Resolution of Congress, July 2, 1788, submitting ratifications of the Constitution to a committee.....	1060-1061
Resolution of the Congress, September 13, 1788, fixing date for the election of a President, and the organization of the Government under the Constitution..	1062
Resolution of the First Congress submitting 12 amendments to the Constitution.....	1063-1065
The first 10 amendments to the Constitution.....	1066-1067
Subsequent amendments to the Constitution.....	1068-1072

RESOLVES ADOPTED IN CHARLOTTE TOWN,
MECKLENBURG COUNTY, NORTH
CAROLINA, MAY 31, 1775

Charlotte Town, Mecklenburg County, May 31.

This Day the Committee met, and passed the following

RESOLVES:

Whereas by an Address presented to his Majesty by both Houses of Parliament in *February* last, the *American* Colonies are declared to be in a State of actual Rebellion, we conceive that all Laws and Commissions confirmed by, or derived from the Authority of the King or Parliament, are annulled and vacated, and the former civil Constitution of these Colonies for the present wholly suspended. To provide in some Degree for the Exigencies of the County in the present alarming Period, we deem it proper and necessary to pass the following Resolves, *viz.*

1. That all Commissions, civil and military, heretofore granted by the Crown, to be exercised in these Colonies, are null and void, and the Constitution of each particular Colony wholly suspended.

2. That the Provincial Congress of each Province, under the Direction of the Great Continental Congress, is invested with all legislative and executive Powers within their respective Provinces; and that no other Legislative or Executive does or can exist, at this Time, in any of these Colonies.

3. As all former Laws are now suspended in this Province, and the Congress have not yet provided others, we judge it necessary, for the better Preservation of good Order, to form certain Rules and Regulations for the internal Government of this County, until Laws shall be provided for us by the Congress.

4. That the Inhabitants of this County do meet on a certain Day appointed by this Committee, and having formed themselves into nine Companies, to *wit*, eight for the County, and one for the Town of *Charlotte*, do choose a Colonel and other military Officers, who shall hold and exercise their several Powers by Virtue of this Choice, and independent of *Great-Britain*, and former Constitution of this Province.

5. That for the better Preservation of the Peace, and Administration of Justice, each of these Companies do choose from their own Body two discreet Freeholders, who shall be impowered each by himself, and singly, to decide and determine all Matters of Controversy arising within the said Company under the Sum of Twenty Shillings, and jointly and together all Controversies under the Sum of Forty Shillings, yet so as their Decisions may admit of Appeals to the Convention of the Select Men of the whole County; and also, that any one of these shall have Power to examine, and commit to Confinement, Persons accused of Petit Larceny.

6. That those two Select Men, thus chosen, do, jointly and together, choose from the Body of their particular Company two Persons, properly qualified to serve as Constables, who may assist them in the Execution of their Office.

7. That upon the Complaint of any Person to either of these Select Men, he do issue his Warrant, directed to the Constable, commanding him to bring the Aggressor before him or them to answer the said Complaint.

8. That these eighteen Select Men, thus appointed, do meet every third *Tuesday* in *January, April, July, and October*, at the Court-House, in *Charlotte*, to hear and determine all Matters of Controversy for Sums exceeding Forty Shillings; also Appeals: And in Cases of Felony, to commit the Person or Persons convicted thereof to close Confinement, until the Provincial Congress shall provide and establish Laws and Modes of Proceeding in all such Cases.

9. That these Eighteen Select Men, thus convened, do choose a Clerk to record the Transactions of said Convention; and that the said Clerk, upon the Application of any Person or Persons aggrieved, do issue his Warrant to one of the Constables, to summons and warn said Offender to appear before the Convention at their next sitting, to answer the aforesaid Complaint.

10. That any Person making complaint upon Oath to the Clerk, or any Member of the Convention, that he has Reason to suspect that any Person or Persons indebted to him in a Sum above Forty Shillings, do intend clandestinely to withdraw from the County

without paying such Debt; the Clerk, or such Member, shall issue his Warrant to the Constable, commanding him to take the said Person or Persons into safe Custody, until the next sitting of the Convention.

11. That when a Debtor for a Sum below Forty Shillings shall abscond and leave the County, the Warrant granted as aforesaid shall extend to any Goods or Chattels of the said Debtor as may be found, and such Goods or Chattels be seized and held in Custody by the Constable for the Space of Thirty Days; in which Term if the Debtor fails to return and discharge the Debt, the Constable shall return the Warrant to one of the Select Men of the Company where the Goods and Chattels are found, who shall issue Orders to the Constable to sell such a Part of the said Goods as shall amount to the Sum due; that when the Debt exceeds Forty Shillings, the Return shall be made to the Convention, who shall issue the Orders for Sale.

12. That all Receivers and Collectors of Quitrents, Public and County Taxes, do pay the same into the Hands of the Chairman of this Committee, to be by them disbursed as the public Exigencies may require. And that such Receivers and Collectors proceed no farther in their Office until they be approved of by, and have given to this Committee good and sufficient Security for a faithful Return of such Monies when collected.

13. That the Committee be accountable to the County for the Application of all Monies received from such public Officers.

14. That all these Officers hold their Commissions during the Pleasure of their respective Constituents.

15. That this Committee will sustain all Damages that may ever hereafter accrue to all or any of these Officers thus appointed, and thus acting, on Account of their Obedience and Conformity to these Resolves.

16. That whatever Person shall hereafter receive a Commission from the Crown, or attempt to exercise any such Commission heretofore received, shall be deemed an Enemy to his Country; and upon Information being made to the Captain of the Company where he resides, the said Captain shall cause him to be apprehended, and conveyed before the two Select Men of the said Company, who,

upon Proof of the Fact, shall commit him the said Offender, into safe Custody, until the next setting of the Convention, who shall deal with him as Prudence may direct.

17. That any Person refusing to yield Obedience to the above Resolves shall be deemed equally criminal, and liable to the same Punishments as the Offenders above last mentioned.

18. That these Resolves be in full Force and Virtue, until Instructions from the General Congress of this Province, regulating the Jurisprudence of this Province, shall provide otherwise, or the legislative Body of *Great-Britain* resign its unjust and arbitrary Pretensions with Respect to *America*.

19. That the several Militia Companies in this county do provide themselves with proper Arms and Accoutrements, and hold themselves in Readiness to execute the commands and Directions of the Provincial Congress, and of this committee.

20. That this committee do appoint Colonel *Thomas Polk*, and Doctor *Joseph Kennedy*, to purchase 300 lb. of Powder, 600 lb. of Lead, and 1000 Flints, and deposit the same in some safe Place, hereafter to be appointed by the committee.

Signed by Order of the Committee.

EPH. BREVARD, *Clerk of the Committee.*¹

¹ Quoted from *American Historical Review*, vol. 13, pp. 16-19.