

MARYLAND JOURNAL & BALTIMORE ADVERTISER - Friday, 3/21/1788

Mr. WILLIAM GODDARD,

SIR

WE are informed by a gentleman from your place, that a complete system of government for the United States, has been drawn up by the Hon. Luther Martin, and is intended to be published in your Paper -- As the time appointed for the meeting of the convention draws near, it must be of great importance to the community, to have this work published as speedily as possible, in order that the people at large may have time to consider it with the attention which the nature of the subject requires, and after careful examination, and comparing it with the system proposed by the late national Convention, they may have time calmly to judge for themselves, which of the two is most likely to secure their liberty, and promote their happiness.

Should the publication of this new system be delayed, the people will in all probability conclude, that the Constitution proposed by the late Convention, is the best that can be contrived, for say they, if any good man know of a better, he surely would, in love to his country, publish it.

It is not sufficient that the defects of the proposed plan of government have been pointed out, for the people know, that every system framed by man will be imperfect -- but if they can have the two systems laid before them, a fair opportunity then arises of choosing the best, or that which is the least defective....

H.Z.

Harford Co., 3/15/1787