

## **1. HOW SHOULD THE STATES BE REPRESENTED IN THE NATIONAL LEGISLATURE?**

*Position B:*

“Proportional representation will threaten the smaller states. Since this convention was called to revise the Articles, we have no power to go beyond the federal scheme. A confederacy places sovereignty in its members, and sovereignty means equality.”

-William Patterson, New Jersey

“The Federalists insist that increasing the federal government’s power will be for the good of the whole; and although the three great states [Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts] form nearly a majority, they will never hurt the lesser states. I do not trust them. What would prevent them from abusing their power to our destruction?”

-Gunning Bedford, Delaware

## **2. WHICH PART OF GOVERNMENT SHOULD HAVE THE POWER TO DECLARE WAR?**

*Position B:*

“The Proceedings of Congress are too slow. It would meet but once a year. The House would be too numerous for such deliberations. The Senate would be the best depository, being more acquainted with foreign affairs, and most capable of proper resolutions. If the states are equally represented in the Senate then the small will have their all at stake as well as the large states.”

-Charles Pickney, South Carolina

## **3. SHOULD SLAVES BE COUNTED IN DETERMINING REPRESENTATION?**

*Position B*

“I can regard negroes in no light but as property. They are not free agents, have no personal liberty, no faculty of acquiring property and like other property are at the will of their master. Has a man in Virginia a number of votes [in state elections] proportional to the number of his slaves? If negroes are not represented in the states to which they belong, why should they be represented in the national government? What is the true principle of representation? It is an expedient by which an assembly of certain individuals chosen by the people is substituted in place of the inconvenient meeting of the people themselves. If such a meeting was actually to take place, would the slaves vote? They would not. Why then should they be represented?”

-William Patterson, New Jersey

## **4. WHAT SHOULD BE DONE ABOUT THE SLAVE TRADE?**

*Position B:*

“Let every state import what it pleases. The morality or wisdom of slavery are consideration belonging to the states themselves. What enriches a part enriches the whole and states are the best judges of their particular interests.”

-Oliver Ellsworth, Connecticut

“South Carolina can never receive the Constitution if it prohibits the slave trade. In every proposed extension of the power of Congress, that state has expressly and watchfully expected that of meddling with the importation of negroes.”

-Charles Pickney, South Carolina

“Religion and humanity have nothing to do with this. Interest alone is the governing principle with nations.”

-John Rutledge, South Carolina