Anti-Federalist Paper #46

- We find here that the Congress in its legislative capacity, shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, to borrow money; to regulate commerce; to fix the rule for naturalization and the laws of bankruptcy; to coin money; to establish post offices and post roads; to secure copyrights to authors; to declare war...where does it end?
- . . My object here is to consider that undefined, unbounded and immense power which is comprised in the following clause—"And to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this constitution in the government of the United States; or in any department or offices thereof." Under such a clause as this, can any power be held back from Congress? . . . Besides the powers already mentioned, other powers may be assumed hereafter as contained by implication in this constitution...
- The Congress are therefore vested with the supreme legislative power, without control. In giving such immense, such unlimited powers, was there no necessity of a Bill of Rights, to secure to the people their liberties? Is it not evident that we are left wholly dependent on the wisdom and virtue of the men who shall from time to time be the members of Congress? And who shall be able to say seven years hence, the members of Congress will be wise and good men, or of the contrary character?...

Anti-Federalist Paper #84

- But rulers have the same habits as other men; they are as likely to use the power with which they are vested, for private purposes, and to the injury and oppression of those over whom they are placed, as individuals in a state of nature are to injure and oppress one another. It is therefore as proper that bounds should be set to their authority, as that government should have at first been instituted to restrain private injuries . . .
- The powers, rights and authority, granted to the general government by this Constitution, are as complete...it reaches to every thing which concerns human happiness—life, liberty, and property are under its control...Ought not a government, vested with such extensive and indefinite authority, to have been restricted by a declaration of rights? It certainly ought.

Anti-Federalist Paper #1

A CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT IS TYRANNY

The first question that presents itself on the subject is, whether a confederated government be the best for the United States or not? Or in other words, whether the thirteen United States should be reduced to one great republic, governed by one legislature, and under the direction of one executive and judicial?...This is impossible. How can New York know of the matters of Massachusetts? The confederation will be killed by this Constitution, and we shall cease to be 13 republics governed by our state governments, we shall be under the almighty too powerful Constitutional government...