Documents for reflection from the Maryland State Archives Budget Hearings for FY 2004 February 25, 2003



An accommodation...by mutual yieldings:

Advice from President George Washington

... I regret, deeply regret, the difference in opinions which have arisen, and divided you and another principal Officer of the Government; and wish, devoutly, there could be an accommodation of them by mutual yieldings.

A Measure of this sort would produce harmony, and consequent good in our public Councils; the contrary ill, inevitably, introduce confusion, and serious mischiefs; and for what? because mankind cannot think alike, but would adopt different means to attain the same end. For I will frankly, and solemnly declare that, I believe the views of both of you are pure, and well meant; and that experience alone will decide with respect to the salubrity of the measures which are the subjects of dispute. Why then, when some of the best Citizens in the United States, Men of discernment, Uniform and tried Patriots, who have no sinister views to promote, but are chaste in their ways of thinking and acting are to be found, some on one side, and some on the other of the questions which have caused these agitations [?] [S]hould either of you be so tenacious of your opinions as to make no allowances for those of the other?

George Washington to Thomas Jefferson, October 18, 1792, about the disagreements between Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton, original in the Manuscript Division, Library of Congress. Images courtesy of the American Memory Project, Library of Congress.

Phil a Octob 18 1792.

Ly dear Sir. Private)

Private

Of the extracts which you enclosed me, to concerce me of your attack next to the Constitution of the States Tates, or of your disposition to premote the general welfare of this Country. - But I repret deeply repret the difference is opinion which have arriver and divided you and another principal Oficer of the for err mest; and wish devoutly, then could be an accomodation of them by matual yieldings. -

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