

Constitution of the Galactic Union



ARTICLE I

Section 1.

All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in the Senate of the Galactic Union.

Section 2.

The Senate of the Galactic Union shall be composed of at least one Senator from each System or functional constituency, chosen by the Legislature thereof or elected by the people thereof, for six Standard Years; and each Senator shall have one Vote.

Immediately after they shall be assembled in Consequence of the first Election, they shall be divided as equally as may be into three Classes. The Seats of the Senators of the first Class shall be vacated at the Expiration of the second Year, of the second Class at the Expiration of the fourth Year, and of the third Class at the Expiration of the sixth Year, so that one third may be chosen every second Year; and if Vacancies happen by Resignation, or otherwise, during the Recess of the Legislature of any System, the Executive thereof may make temporary Appointments until the next Meeting of the Legislature, which shall then fill such Vacancies.

No Person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty Standard Years, and been nine Years a Citizen of the Galactic Union, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that System for which he shall be chosen.

The Chancellor of the Galactic Union shall be present during the Sessions of the Senate of the Galactic Union, but shall have no Vote, unless they be equally divided.

The Senate shall chuse its President and other Officers.

The Senate shall have the sole Power to remove a Chancellor of the Union from Office through expression of No Confidence.

Judgment in Cases of No Confidence shall not extend further than to removal from Office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any Office of honor, Trust or Profit under the Galactic Union: but the Party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to Indictment, Trial, Judgment and Punishment, according to Law.

Section 3.

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The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each System by the Legislature thereof; but the Senate may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of chusing Senators.

The Senate shall assemble at least once in every Year, and such Meeting shall be on the first day of the first week in the last month of a year, unless they shall by Law appoint a different Day.

Section 4.

The Senate shall be the Judge of the Elections, Returns and Qualifications of its own Members, and a Majority shall constitute a Quorum to do Business; but a smaller Number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the Attendance of absent Members, in such Manner, and under such Penalties as the Senate may provide.

The Senate may determine the Rules of its Proceedings, punish its Members for disorderly Behavior, and, with the Concurrence of two thirds, expel a member.

The Senate shall keep a Journal of its Proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such Parts as may in their Judgment require Secrecy; and the Yeas and Nays of the Members on any question shall, at the desire of one fifth of those present, be entered on the Journal.

Section 5.

The Senators and Representatives shall receive a Compensation for their Services, to be ascertained by Law, and paid out of the Treasury of the Galactic Union. They shall in all Cases, except Treason, Felony and Breach of the Peace, be privileged from Arrest during their Attendance at the Session of their House, and in going to and returning from the same; and for any Speech or Debate, they shall not be questioned in any other Place.

No Senator or Representative shall, during the Time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil Office under the Authority of the Galactic Union, which shall have been created, or the Emoluments whereof shall have been increased during such time; and no Person holding any Office under the Galactic Union, shall be a Member of the Senate during his Continuance in Office.

Section 6.

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Every Resolution which shall have passed the Senate, shall, before it become a Law, be presented to the Chancellor of the Union; If he approve he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it, with his Objections to the Senate, who shall enter the Objections at large on their Journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If after such Reconsideration two thirds of the Senate shall agree to pass the Resolution, it shall become a Law. But in all such Cases the Votes of the Senate shall be determined by Yeas and Nays, and the Names of the Persons voting for and against the Resolution shall be entered on the Journal of the Senate. If any Resolution shall not be returned by the Chancellor of the Union within ten Days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, the Same shall be a Law, in like Manner as if he had signed it, unless the Senate by their Adjournment prevent its Return, in which Case it shall not be a Law.

Section 7.

The Senate shall have power

- To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common defence and general Welfare of the Galactic Union; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the Galactic Union;
- To borrow Money on the credit of the Galactic Union;
- To regulate Commerce with neutral Systems, and among the several Systems;
- To establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the Galactic Union;
- To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;
- To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current coin of the Galactic Union;
- To establish Post Offices and Hyperlane routes;
- To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;
- To constitute Tribunals inferior to the Supreme Court;
- To define and punish Piracies and Felonies committed in the deep space, and Offenses against the Law of Nations;
- To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;
- To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;
- To provide and maintain a Navy;

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- To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;
- To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;
- To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the Galactic Union, reserving to the Systems respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by the Senate;
- To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular Systems, and the Acceptance of Senate, become the Seat of the Government of the Galactic Union, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the System in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings;—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 Galactic Union, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

Section 8.

The Privilege of the Writ of *Habeas Corpus* shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it.

No Resolution of attainder or Ex post facto law shall be passed.

No Capitation, or other direct, Tax shall be laid, unless in Proportion to the Census or Enumeration herein before directed to be taken.

No Tax or Duty shall be laid on Articles exported from any System.

No Preference shall be given by any Regulation of Commerce or Revenue to the Ports of one System over those of another: nor shall Vessels bound to, or from, one System, be obliged to enter, clear, or pay Duties in another.

No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.

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Section 9.

No System shall enter into any Treaty, Alliance, or Confederation; grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal; coin Money; emit Resolutions of Credit; make any Thing but gold and silver Coin a Tender in Payment of Debts; pass any Resolution of Attainder, ex post facto Law, or Law impairing the Obligation of Contracts.

No System shall, without the Consent of the Senate, lay any Imposts or Duties on Imports or Exports, except what may be absolutely necessary for executing it's inspection Laws: and the net Produce of all Duties and Imposts, laid by any System on Imports or Exports, shall be for the Use of the Treasury of the Galactic Union; and all such Laws shall be subject to the Revision and Control of the Senate.

No System shall, without the Consent of Senate, lay any Duty of Tonnage, keep Troops, or Ships of War in time of Peace, enter into any Agreement or Compact with another System, or with a foreign Power, or engage in War, unless actually invaded, or in such imminent Danger as will not admit of delay.

Article II

Section 1.

The executive Power shall be vested in a Chancellor of the Galactic Union. He shall hold his Office during the Term of four Years, and, together with the Vice-Chancellor of the Union, chosen for the same Term, be elected, by a majority of members of the Galactic Senate.

No Person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the Galactic Union, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of Chancellor of the Union; neither shall any person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty five Standard Years, and been fourteen Standard Years a Resident within the Galactic Union.

In Case of the Removal of the Chancellor of the Union from Office, or of his Death, Resignation, or Inability to discharge the Powers and Duties of the said Office, the Same shall devolve on the Vice-Chancellor of the Union, and the Senate may by Law provide for the Case of Removal, Death, Resignation or Inability, both of the Chancellor of the Union and Vice-Chancellor of the Union, declaring what Officer

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shall then act as Chancellor of the Union, and such Officer shall act accordingly, until the Disability be removed, or a Chancellor of the Union shall be elected.

The Chancellor of the Union shall, at stated Times, receive for his Services, a Compensation, which shall neither be increased nor diminished during the Period for which he shall have been elected, and he shall not receive within that Period any other Emolument from the Galactic Union, or any of them.

Before he enter on the Execution of his Office, he shall take the following Oath or Affirmation:—"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of Chancellor of the Galactic Union, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the Galactic Union."

Section 2.

The Chancellor of the Union shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the Galactic Union, and of the Militia of the several Systems, when called into the actual Service of the Galactic Union; he may require the Opinion, in writing, of the principal Officer in each of the executive Departments, upon any Subject relating to the Duties of their respective Offices, and he shall have Power to grant Reprieves and Pardons for Offenses against the Galactic Union, except in Cases of Impeachment.

He shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the Supreme Court, and all other Officers of the Galactic Union, whose Appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by Law: but the Senate may by Law vest the Appointment of such inferior Officers, as they think proper, in the Chancellor of the Union alone, in the Courts of Law, or in the Heads of Departments.

The Chancellor of the Union shall have Power to fill up all Vacancies that may happen during the Recess of the Senate, by granting Commissions which shall expire at the End of their next Session.

Section 3.

He shall from time to time give to the Senate Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their Consideration such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he shall receive Ambassadors and other public Ministers; he

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shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed, and shall Commission all the Officers of the Galactic Union.

Section 4.

The Chancellor of the Union and Vice-Chancellor of the Union, shall be removed from Office on Expression of No Confidence for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors.

Article III

Section 1.

The judicial Power of the Galactic Union, shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Senate may from time to time ordain and establish. The Judges, both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behaviour, and shall, at stated Times, receive for their Services a Compensation which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office.

Section 2.

The judicial Power shall extend to all Cases, in Law and Equity, arising under this Constitution, the Laws of the Galactic Union, and Treaties made, or which shall be made, under their Authority;—to all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls;—to all Cases of admiralty and maritime Jurisdiction;—to Controversies to which the Galactic Union shall be a Party;—to Controversies between two or more Systems;—between a System and Citizens of another System;—between Citizens of different Systems;—between Citizens of the same System claiming Lands under Grants of different Systems, and between a System, or the Citizens thereof, and foreign Systems, Citizens or Subjects.

In all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, and those in which a System shall be Party, the supreme Court shall have original Jurisdiction. In all the other Cases before mentioned, the supreme Court shall have appellate Jurisdiction, both as to Law and Fact, with such Exceptions, and under such Regulations as the Senate shall make.

Trial of all Crimes shall be by Jury; and such Trial shall be held in the System where the said Crimes shall have been committed; but when not committed within any System, the Trial shall be at such Place or Places as the Senate may by Law have directed.

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Section 3.

Treason against the Galactic Union, shall consist only in levying War against it, or in adhering to its Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort. No Person shall be convicted of Treason unless on the Testimony of two Witnesses to the same overt Act, or on Confession in open Court. The Senate shall have Power to declare the Punishment of Treason, but no Attainder of Treason shall work Corruption of Blood, or Forfeiture except during the Life of the Person attainted.

Article IV

Section 1.

Full Faith and Credit shall be given in each System to the public Acts, Records, and judicial Proceedings of every other System. And the Senate may by general Laws prescribe the Manner in which such Acts, Records and Proceedings shall be proved, and the Effect thereof.

Section 2.

The Citizens of each System shall be entitled to all Privileges and Immunities of Citizens in the several Systems.

A Person charged in any System with Treason, Felony, or other Crime, who shall flee from Justice, and be found in another System, shall on demand of the executive Authority of the System from which he fled, be delivered up, to be removed to the System having Jurisdiction of the Crime.

Section 3.

New Systems may be admitted by the Senate into this Union; but no new Systems shall be formed or erected within the Jurisdiction of any other System; nor any System be formed by the Junction of two or more Systems, or parts of Systems, without the Consent of the Legislatures of the Systems concerned as well as of the Senate.

The Senate shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the Galactic Union; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the Galactic Union, or of any particular System.

Section 4.

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The Galactic Union shall protect each of the Systems against Invasion; and on Application of the Legislature, or of the Executive (when the Legislature cannot be convened) against domestic Violence.

Article V

The Senate, whenever two thirds shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to this Constitution, or, on the application of the legislatures of two thirds of the several systems, shall call a convention for proposing amendments, which, in either case, shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of this Constitution, when ratified by the legislatures of three fourths of the several systems, or by conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by the Senate; provided that no system, without its consent, shall be deprived of its suffrage in the Senate.

Article VI

All Debts contracted and Engagements entered into, before the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be as valid against the Galactic Union under this Constitution, as under the Confederation.

This Constitution, and the Laws of the Galactic Union which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the Galactic Union, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every System shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any System to the Contrary notwithstanding.

The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the Members of the several System Legislatures, and all executive and judicial Officers, both of the Galactic Union and of the several Systems, shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution; but no religious Test shall ever be Required as a Qualification To any Office or public Trust under the Galactic Union.

Article VII

The Ratification of the Conventions of twelve Systems, shall be sufficient for the Establishment of this Constitution between the Systems so ratifying the Same.

Amendment I

The Senate shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Amendment II

No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Amendment III

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Amendment IV

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Amendment V

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the System and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law,

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and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.

Amendment VI

In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty credits, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the Galactic Union, than according to the rules of the common law.

Amendment VII

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Amendment VIII

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Amendment IX

The powers not delegated to the Galactic Union by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the Systems, are reserved to the Systems respectively, or to the people.

Amendment X

The Judicial power of the Galactic Union shall not be construed to extend to any suit in law or equity, commenced or prosecuted against one of the Galactic Union by Citizens of another System, or by Citizens or Subjects of any Foreign State.

Amendment XI

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Section 1.

The sector of Thorix and its constituencies shall from now on have the right to unilaterally withdraw from institutions of the Galactic Union and enter a state of meditative solitude until the sector decides to rejoin the joint institutions.

Section 2.

During the time of meditative solitude, the Thorix sector shall continue to be recognized as a perpetual member of the Union and shall continue to fall under the jurisdiction of Unionan laws passed before meditative solitude.

Amendment XII

Section 1.

Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the Galactic Union, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Section 2.

The Senate shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Amendment XIII

Section 1.

All persons born or naturalized in the Galactic Union, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the Galactic Union and of the System wherein they reside. No System shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the Galactic Union; nor shall any System deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

Section 2.

No person shall be a Senator or Representative in the Senate or hold any office, civil or military, under the Galactic Union, or under any System, who, having previously taken an oath, as a member of the Senate, or as an officer of the Galactic Union, or as a member of any System legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any System, to support the Constitution of the Galactic Union, shall have engaged

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in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But the Senate may, by a vote of two-thirds, remove such disability.

Section 3.

The validity of the public debt of the Galactic Union, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned. But neither the Galactic Union nor any System shall assume or pay any debt or obligation incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the Galactic Union or any claim for the loss or emancipation of any slave; but all such debts, obligations and claims shall be held illegal and void.

Section 4.

The Senate shall have power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

Amendment XIV

Section 1.

The right of citizens of the Galactic Union to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the Galactic Union or by any System on account of species, race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

Section 2.

The Senate shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Amendment XV

Section 1.

The Armed Forces of the Galactic Union shall be disbanded and the raising of Armies or Navies of the Galactic Union shall be prohibited.

Section 2.

Systems may continue to maintain small militias of armed personnel to ensure the security of their population and the Hyperspace lanes in their jurisdiction.

Section 3.

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Non-governmental entities, corporations or any other organisation shall be forbidden to raise, maintain or develop an Army or a Navy.

Section 4.

The Senate shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Amendment XVI

The Senate shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several Systems, and without regard to any census or enumeration.

Amendment XVII

Section 1.

The right of citizens of the Galactic Union to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the Galactic Union or by any System on account of sex.

Section 2.

The Senate shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Amendment XVIII

Section 1.

No person shall be elected to the office of Chancellor of the Union more than twice, and no person who has held the office of Chancellor of the Union, or acted as Chancellor of the Union, for more than two years of a term to which some other person was elected Chancellor of the Union shall be elected to the office of the Chancellor of the Union more than once. But this Article shall not apply to any person holding the office of Chancellor of the Union when this Article was proposed by the Senate, and shall not prevent any person who may be holding the office of Chancellor of the Union, or acting as Chancellor of the Union, during the term within which this Article becomes operative from holding the office of Chancellor of the Union or acting as Chancellor of the Union during the remainder of such term.

Section 2.

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This Article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several systems within seven standard years from the date of its submission to the systems by the Senate.

Amendment XIX

Section 1.

The right of citizens of the Galactic Union to vote in any primary or other election for Chancellor of the Union and Vice-Chancellor of the Union or for Senator or Representative in the Senate, shall not be denied or abridged by the Galactic Union or any System by reason of failure to pay any poll tax or other tax.

Section 2.

The Senate shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Amendment XX

Section 1.

The right of citizens of the Galactic Union, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the Galactic Union or by any System on account of age.

Section 2.

The Senate shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Amendment XXI

Section 1.

Elections for Chancellor of the Union and Vice-Chancellor of the Union shall take place simultaneously, with each Senator having one vote for Chancellor of the Union and Vice-Chancellor of the Union, after the candidates have been nominated by another Senator as Chancellor of the Union and Vice-Chancellor of the Union, respectively.

To be elected, a Chancellor of the Union and a Vice-Chancellor of the Union shall require a simple majority of all Senators. In case neither of the Candidates for Chancellor of the Union and Vice-Chancellor of the Union receive a necessary

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majority, a second round of voting between the two winners of the first round shall be required.

Section 2.

To bring forward a Vote of No Confidence in the Chancellor of the Union, Senators shall be required to send a written note to the President of the Galactic Senate containing the Seconds of at least one-third of the Senators.

After the note has been sent, the President shall call upon the Senators at the appropriate time, but no later than seven standard days, to vote upon the question of confidence in the Chancellor of the Union by Yeas and Nays.

In case the Senate holds the Chancellor of the Union out of confidence, the Chancellor of the Union shall be removed from office, with the powers of the office falling upon the Vice-Chancellor of the Union, who shall hold the office as Acting Chancellor of the Union until the election of a new Chancellor of the Union and a Vice-Chancellor of the Union.

Amendment XXII

No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of Senators shall have intervened.

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