

Is it Perfect? — Government (This democratically-elected representative republic.)

When the convention adjourned, at Ind. Hall, in Philly, Sept. 17, 1787, B. Franklin said it was not perfect, but it was the best they could do at the time and keep the States together. He was a strong proponent of Art. 5 to provide for later changes. It now has 27 Amendments — changes — made to the original document's 7 Articles. Among them:

Arts. I → 10 — The Bill of Rights — written by James Madison, proposed to House of Reps., June 8, 1789, and ratified Dec. 15, 1791

Art. 13 — abolition of slavery, ratified Dec. 6, 1865

Art. 16 — establishes Federal individual income tax, is ratified Feb. 3, 1913

Art. 17 — election of U.S. Senators by popular vote, Apr. 8, 1913

Art. 18 — prohibition of alcohol, ratified Jan. 16, 1919

Art. 19 — women's suffrage, ratified Aug. 18, 1920

Art. 21 — repeals prohibition, ratified Dec. 5, 1933

Art. 22 — limits President to 2 terms, ratified Feb. 27, 1951

Art. 25 — succession in case of vacancy of President, ratified Feb. 10, 1967

Art. 26 — voting age reduced from 21 to 18 years of age, ratified July 1, 1971

So, it seems that old B. Franklin was wise, truthful and farsighted. (And knew adjustments would be needed.)

Would other changes be appropriate; such as: changes concerning the individual income tax; or one to rein in Congress' authority to spend and borrow; or one to require Congress to rein in the Federal bureaucracy and its regulatory powers? And....? / April, 2024 pw