Joseph Ramsey a Citizen
of the United States, and
a Resident of Shellyville Bedford
County Tennessee.

To the delegates Composing
the State Constitutional Convention
for the purpose of Revising altering
or amending the organic
Law of California.

Although a non resident
of your State, I would Respectfully
Submit to your consideration
the Enclosed plan & form for
a State Constitution or
Organism you will Readily see
there is some Radical and
unprecedented changes from
the Federal & State Constitution,
in the first plan you will see
I have dispensed with population

& Territory as a basis for Representation, and have substituted Important Interests, and Election districts, and have Incorporated the Concurrent in stead of the Numerical Majority. Simply Requiring the votes to be taken by Committees Requiring (2/3) of the Members of any Committee to enable their vote to count, and two thirds of the Committees to pass any Bill law Rule or Resolution, this provision applies to the Judicial as well as the Legislative department. & hence you will see that necessarily dispenses with a separate House called a Senate. also the governors veto, both of which was only intended as Negative powers. that power is now more perfectly and Economically applied by the Exercise of the Concurrent Majority. or not the Labours of your Session

Of more Importance than an ordinary Session of the General assembly, whose acts Can be Repealed at a succeeding Session you will find ~~that~~ that these Important Interests. in which each Can protect Its self will be as Homogenous as the different Members of the Human body. that antipathy and antagonism which always Manifested Between Rival political parties which are Continually Striving for the ascendency, and each when they gain the ascendency is as absolute and Tyrannical as any Monarchy in the world. this Concurrent principal. applied to the Important Interest, above named will not Only Expel but will annihilate the demon of Party Spirit which is the legitimate offspring of an

P.S would be glad some Member would inform me how the filer is Rura and what system are fixed

J G R

~~Which of an~~ Inherent defect in the Numerical Majority principal although not quite so simple is far safer, as much more so as our Trial by Jury system is to be preferred (although It Requires the Unanimous Concurrence of all Twelve to render a verdict) to a one man power. There is many more Reasons and Illustrations I would give If I had room & time & you had patience. although My Magazine is small and my artillery is light yet my ammunition is neither exhausted nor diminished with Truth & sound philosophy to back me I feel that my bull-works are as formiddle as the Walls of Gibraltar ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ if further Information is desired address Joseph Ramsey Shelbyville Tenn

A Plan containing the Elements & Cardinal principles for a State Constitutional Government.
Viz We the people of the State of California Bounded as follows (here give the Boundaries)

do hereby adopt Ratify ordain & proclaim the following (covenant) Constitution as the fundamental Law of the State.

Said Government shall be known and designated as a Democratic Republic. Containing three Independent and Coordinate departments each Sovereign in its sphere, so that no one shall Exercise the powers delegated to the others.

The Legislative department shall be chosen by the qualified voters of each division, or Election district, without Regard to population or Territory in the following manner, viz the State being divided into three divisions (called Election districts) and that each of the following named Interests viz agricultural Manufacturing

Mechanical Commercial Transportation Mining Educational & Grazing & Professional, shall be entitled to an Equal Representation of their own Selection. each of the (9) interests above named shall be entitled to (3) three Representatives from ~~from~~ each (division) District allowing each thus to have (9) nine Representatives constituting the Legislative Council of (81) Eighty one Representatives. these Eighty one Representatives shall constitute (9) nine Standing Committees.— Before entering upon the discharge of of the function of their office. they shall Each Subscribe their names to the ~~the~~ following affirmation, oath or obligation viz

I A. B. Solemnly pledge my Word upon the Sacred altar of my honor that I will faithfully discharge the duties and obligations imposed upon me, and that I will not knowingly usurp and Exercise powers not clearly delegated to me and that I have not given money or any valuable thing to procure my Election.—

Nor promised to give or bestow any official favours on any person for their support and if on Conviction I submit my Body purse & privilege to such Penalties as the Law & Court May Impose

signed A, B

and when such Representatives ~~shall~~ thus chosen and assembled at the Time and place specified.

and have signed the above obligation they shall proceed to organise by the Election of a Presiding officer Stylea speaker or chairman.

a Resident Citizen of the State and such other clerical officers as are necessary to Complete their Organization such as clerks Secretary Comptroller. All shall be Required to subscribe to the obligation above set forth, but no man shall be held Ineligible on account nationality Race, Color or Religion. The legislative Council shall Likewise Elect a chief Executive officer Stylea Governor, all of whose Tenure in office ~~shall~~ shall be Regulated by Law Likewise the Salaries of each and all

but no Salary to be Increased nor
diminished during the Term for which they
were Elected. Each Representative member will
be Required to present a Certificate of the
Judges who held the Election and Counted
the vote that said Representative is entitled
to his seat, but should there be a Tie vote
the same Constituency shall hold an the
Election, and when qualified shall
hold their office for years and
until their successors are Elected and
qualified. In the passage of all laws
Rules Regulations by Laws, and all
Elections shall be Taken by the Committee
Each Committee to Count one vote.
A Requiring (2/3) two thirds of each Committee
Concurring to enable the vote of the Committee
vote to be Counted and two thirds of the (9) Commts
to Concur in the passage of all bills, laws,
Rules, Regulations By Laws and Elections.
said Legislative Council shall have power
to Censure, suspend, or, for such Crime
as they deem necessary & proper may
Expel any Member of their Body or
or any officer they may have Elected
these Misdemenors shall Consist in
Bribery, Perjury, forgery, theft, and dishonesty

Bribery shall consist in giving or offering to give Money or any valuable thing from any person company corporation or foreign firm or in receiving or offering to receive Money or any valuable thing from any person, company, corporation or or foreign firm. The penalties apply to any officer or private citizen who shall be guilty. This only applies to officers who receive gifts during their official term. Perjury shall consist in having made a false statement of any fact or to have suppressed the truth, or wilfully having perverted the same. Forgery shall consist in signing the name or names of any person or persons to any instrument of writing without his or their knowledge and consent.
Theft shall consist in taking the property of another without his or their knowledge or consent and appropriating the same to his use, or fraudulently having concealed the same. Drunkenness shall consist in the use of intoxicating drink so as to disqualify the person for the time being to intelligibly discharge the duties of his official position.

When a vacancy shall occur in the Legislative Department by death Resignation Removal or otherwise the Interest to which he belonged shall as soon as possible be found to supply his place the governor giving Notice of such vacancy.
The Time of the Convening and adjourning shall be Regulated by Law commencing one in two years.
and on Extraordinary occasions the Governor may Convene them.
and when Convened, shall state the object & purpose for which they were convened. and they shall entertain no other question whatever.
Should a Miscellaneous question arise then each of the nine committees shall select one of their members and these (9) shall compose a Committee on said Miscellaneous question and Report as any other Committee to a Committee of the whole and shall be disposed of ~~as any~~ as any other question.
and all Laws Bills Rules & Regulations shall be signed by the Presiding officer & Governor and attested by the Clk

II.

The Judicial Department shall consist in one Supreme Court composed of three Judges or Jurists one from each division of the State known as an Election District. said three Judges shall be chosen or Elected by the Legislature who shall vote by Committees each Committee counting one vote & two thirds of them concurring necessary and two thirds of the Committees necessary to a choice they shall be Elected and hold their office for years and until their successors are Elected and qualified. and shall be Eligible to a Reelection one more Term this Supreme Court shall be styled the guardian protector of the Reserved Rights and shall Exercise Original and appelate Jurisdiction. and from their decission there is no appeal they shall decide all questions of a Constitutional character.

The Legislative department shall likewise have power to Establish such other Inferior Judicial Tribunals in such manner & with such power as they deem necessary & proper.

The Right of Trial by Jury to remain inviolate

III.

The Executive Department shall consist in one chief Executive officer styled Governor, Elected as provided by the foregoing provision.
It shall be his duty to see that the Laws shall be faithfully Executed:
he shall likewise have power to exercise executive clemency, where persons have been convicted having committed crimes against the peace & dignity of the State, and when the court & jury who tried the case shall concur in Recommending the criminal to Executive clemency.
He with the Comptroller & Treasurer shall constitute the State Financial agent in the adjustment of her financial Business. It shall likewise be his duty to Report to the Legislative Counsel at its Regular Sessions the condition of the State and its different departments, and to Recommend such Measures & policy as he thinks will promote the happiness & prosperity of the State.
But he shall have no power to arrest their Laws by his veto. In case of a vacancy in his office by Resignation death Removal or otherwise the presiding officer of the Legislative department shall fill the position

when the Regular Session of the General assembly shall commence then said presiding officer shall preside until the Legislature shall fill the unexpired Term by the Election of a successor which shall be the first Business they attend to. And a vacancy in any other department shall be filled in a similar Manner.

The Legislature shall have no power to pass any Ex post Facto law which shall impair Contracts nor no law to apply to Crimes and Misdemeanors Committed to prior to the passage of such Law nor to make any decision a precedent and of legal authority that was Rendered in any Case subsequent to the origin of any suit pending in court.

Amendments to this Constitution may be made for two purposes & in two ways. One for the purpose of Enlarging the powers delegated; the other for reducing the powers delegated.

In the first place If the Legislative department shall be of the Opinion Their powers are so Restricted that it impedes their usefulness and that it could be enlarged without danger to the Rights of the people and should pass a Resolution in clear and unambiguous

Terms

the powers they ask to have extended
and submit the same to the next
Ensuing Election for Ratification or rejection
and if a Majority of two third of the
different Estates shall concur the
same shall be Incorporated as part &
parcel of the Organic Law.
But should the people conclude
they had ~~delegated~~ delegated more power
than was safe or necessary and two thirds
of the people should Express themselves in
that way by two thirds of their Representatives
having clearly stated the power they wish
Reduced then said amendment shall
be adopted & Incorporated as part &
Parcel of the Constitution.
But in no Event shall more than
one change be proposed at any one
Time. The Legislative department
shall have the the Entire controle
of the Elective Franchise
all power not herein delegated
shall be Reserved to the people
from whom it came

Ramsey of Tenn
Proposed Const