

Supreme Court of the United States
Washington, D. C. 20543

CHAMBERS OF
THE CHIEF JUSTICE

April 8, 1986

Dear Phyllis:

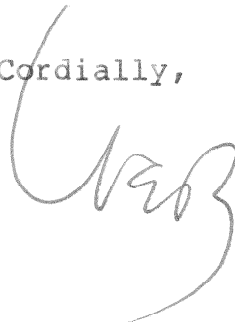
I have your letter of April 4th, on the matter of the Constitutional Convention Debate--if it is accurate to even call it a debate. When I appeared before the National Press Club to talk about the Bicentennial, the reporters, of course, could not be controlled and limited to the subject I prescribed in the question period. One reporter asked what I thought about a Constitutional Convention, and my answer was essentially that it would be "a grand waste of time." I went on to say that any particular problem should be dealt with one at a time as needed, and that there was no occasion in my view for a Constitutional Convention. I have never discussed this with anyone at the White House, and, of course, have very little communication with the White House. I would make a guess that this discussion is chiefly for political considerations and that the administration's position might well be that its fall-back would be an amendment on a limit to the federal debt.

As a matter of interest, although I am sure you will find it virtually amusing in the light of events in the last 50 years, I am enclosing a copy of a paper that I delivered to a National Junior Chamber of Commerce convention in the mid-1930's.

I am acquainted with Lloyd Cutler and some of the sponsors of this idea of a Constitutional Convention, and I have made no bones about expressing my view on the subject. Some of the professors would like to abolish the states, and reorganize the federal structure along the lines of the division of circuits for the Federal Judicial system, or even on a more rigid regional basis. None of it makes any sense to me.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Cordially,



Mrs. Phyllis Schlafly
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