

CENTER FOR STUDY OF PUBLIC CHOICE

George's Hall

George Mason University

4400 University Drive

Fairfax, Virginia 22030

(703) 993-2327

Fax: (703) 323-3491
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX (703) 993-2323

12 July 1991

Mr. John F. Knutsen
Lallakroken 8 B
N-0259 Oslo 2
NORWAY

Dear Mr. Knutsen:

Let me respond to your letter to me dated 26 June, with enclosures.

I have, as you requested, hurriedly gave over your draft proposal for a constitution for a European confederation. I am impressed, first of all, by your terminology and definitions here. In my earlier discussions of the European projects, I have used the term "federation" in the first meaning you mention, and I did suggest, in a Paris paper last year, that Europe would miss a great current opportunity unless it did, in fact, form a genuine *federation*. At the same time, I called for severe restrictions on the central authority, restrictions that would exploit the advantages of competition among units and would also allow for secession.

As it turned out, the words have important effects, and, in Britain in particular, the very work federation or federalism suggest an undue concentration of central authority. Hence, your second meaning of the terms appeals to me here, although I had always used confederation in the first definitional sense. But what I should support would be very close to what you propose here.

I think your proposed change in the terminology could contribute very substantially to the debate now raging in Britain especially, and by letting go of the term *federation* and replacing it with your meaning of *confederation*, a lot of emotional baggage might be eliminated.

I think that you might think about tightening up the text a bit before generalized circulation.

I shall enclose a copy of my Paris paper, "Europe's Constitutional Opportunity."

Sincerely,



James M. Buchanan