

The New Start

Directions: Complete the paragraphs below. Choose the correct term from the Word Bank. Some terms may be used more than once.

Word Bank

central	democratic	reason
committee	existed	states
compromise	justice	system
control	key	Virginia
deadlock	population	

When the delegates met at the Constitutional Convention, they knew that a different 1) _____ of government was needed. Edmund Randolph offered a plan that included a stronger 2) _____ government. Larger states would have greater 3) _____. Known as the 4) _____ Plan, or the “large state plan,” it said that a state’s number of representatives would be based on its 5) _____. The government would have a law-making congress, an enforcement branch, and a court to guarantee 6) _____. Randolph believed that his plan was very 7) _____.

New Jersey’s William Paterson offered a government plan similar to the one that already 8) _____. According to his plan, the 9) _____ would have more control, and each one would have an equal vote. The delegates disagreed, and it became very clear that a 10) _____ was necessary.

Benjamin Franklin calmed the delegates with his strong sense of 11) _____. However, the smaller and larger states remained in a 12) _____. At the heart of their disagreement was the 13) _____ issue of whether the states or the federal government would have more power. A special 14) _____ was formed to try to work out a 15) _____.