

expect all this labor of directing to be done by the secretary. Would it not be infinitely better to have him fold each copy by itself, put a stamp upon it, and then wrap up the ten copies for each member in a bundle and direct that bundle to the member, who can direct each single copy as he pleases? It would save a great deal of trouble to the secretary, and I think would be infinitely better.

Mr. ECKER. That would require double postage; the postage upon each single copy, and then the postage upon each bundle of ten copies.

The question was then taken upon the motion of Mr. MILLER to reconsider, which was not agreed to.

ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS EXTRA MILEAGE.

Mr. DELLINGER submitted the following:

*Ordered.* That the committee on accounts, in auditing the per diem and mileage accounts of members of the convention, be and they are hereby instructed to make such audit, in conformity to the convention bill, by allowing to each member five dollars per day, and the mileage allowed to the members of the last general assembly of this State."

The PRESIDENT. Does that include the hundred dollars extra mileage?

Mr. DELLINGER. That is the object.

The PRESIDENT. The object is to appropriate one hundred dollars to each member, according to the practice of the last legislature, unanctioned by any law or authority.

Mr. BAKER. I hope that order will not be adopted. It is not sustained by any precedent.

Mr. DANIEL. I would like to hear this order explained.

Mr. DELLINGER. I do not think, for my part, that it requires any explanation. The law is perfectly clear to my mind, although I am no lawyer. I will state that I have no doubt upon the subject myself. The committee on claims of the last legislature made this report:

"The committee on claims, to which was referred an order of the house of the second day of March, 1864, instructing them to readjust the mileage of the members of the general assembly, respectfully report:

"That the constitution of Maryland provides that the members of the general assembly shall receive a per diem of four dollars, and such mileage as may be allowed by law. This constitutional provision seems to justify the conclusion, that while the per diem of members is fixed unchangeably, their mileage is left to be adjusted according to the varying circumstances which might arise.

"The committee, having in view the peculiar and unprecedented condition of the currency of the country at this time, and the greatly enhanced cost of travel and living in

consequence thereof, have deemed it just and right to provide as near as may be for equalizing the compensation of members with that of the previous legislatures, and therefore would respectfully recommend the adoption of the following joint resolution:

*Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland.* That the sum of one hundred dollars, in addition to their usual mileage, be paid to each of the senators and delegates of the general assembly."

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. Will the gentleman read the names appended to that report?

Mr. DELLINGER. There are no names to the report. I now read from section three of the bill calling this convention together:

"And the compensation of the delegates to said convention shall be five dollars per day, and the mileage allowed to members of the general assembly of this State."

The PRESIDENT. That does not say members of the last general assembly.

Mr. DELLINGER. But the last legislature fixed the mileage under the resolution I have read. And the act calling this convention together clearly says that members of this convention shall receive the same mileage as members of the legislature. The only question is: Did the legislature intend that the convention should have the mileage they received, or did they intend that they should only receive the mileage of previous legislatures? which to my county is forty-one dollars.

Mr. SCHLEY. Can the gentleman inform me whether the convention bill was passed prior to the adoption of the joint resolution fixing the mileage of members of the general assembly?

Mr. DELLINGER. I cannot give that information; I presume it was, however. Nevertheless, that does not make any difference at all, according to my judgment. I am one of those who believe that the last legislature of the State of Maryland had no right or power, under the constitution of this State, to fix even the per diem of members of this convention, let alone their mileage; that is a subject which exclusively belongs to this body. And I say that, looking at the constitution in relation to calling this convention together, that legislature clearly transcended its powers when it attempted to say to the sovereign convention of the State of Maryland, brought here by the voice of the sovereign people, that their per diem should be but five dollars a day, and their mileage the same as received by former general assemblies of this State. In addition to that I will say that I am informed that a proposition was before the last legislature of Maryland, to fix the per diem of members of this body at seven dollars. And I am told—and the gentleman from Worcester (Mr. Purnell) who was a member of that body will remember—that in the senate a motion was made to insert the