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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1807.

RICHMOND, October 17.

TRIAL OF AARON BURR.

MOTION FOR COMMITMENT.

Thursday, October 15

Gen. Wilkinson's Testimony continued.

Mr. Wickham. You mentioned that Swartwout was with you about the first of October? Gen. Wilkinson. I think about the 8th or 10th. I believe I have said the middle; because I marched on the 23d, and Swartwout had left me some days before. Mr. Wickham. Your letter to the government is of the 21st of October; will you assign a reason for so long delay? A. I took time cautiously to draw from Mr. Swartwout what information I could obtain, lest I should excite suspicion. Another circumstance was that I was busily engaged in making arrangements of the artillery, transports and other military equipments, in order to take the field. Mr. Wickham. You say in your letter to the President, that "you are "not only uninformed of the prime mover and "ultimate objects of the daring enterprise, but "you are ignorant of the foundation on which "it rests, and whether any immediate or collateral protection, internal or external, is expected." I beg leave to ask why you stated this to the President after getting the information you did from Swartwout? A. The answer is very plain; but the question is complex. If you will dismember it, I can answer it. Mr Wickham read an extract from the letter [being part of that just quoted] and said, I think this is different from the information you gave the court. Gen. Wilkinson. I doubted the information I received from Swartwout. I could not suppose that col. Burr or any other individual would have the audacity or folly to undertake such an enterprize without the assistance of some foreign power. I could not, therefore, view him as the prime mover, but as the instrument. I doubted Swartwout's declarations; and although they had an effect upon my mind, I could not place solid confidence in them. He said that the people of the territory were ready to join. He was a stranger in the country and therefore could know nothing of their dispositions but from information. I was acquainted with them, and had heard of no such disposition. Mr Wickham. Then you doubted whether Swartwout was authorised to make these communications? A. I beg your pardon. I believe that he was authorised, and instructed to deliver me lessons of falsehood. Mr. Wickham. Then you say you still doubted? A. It is so expressed in the letter. Mr Wickham. These expressions, I understand, conveyed the true state of your mind at that time? Gen. Wilkinson. I wish you to understand me. When I contemplated the audacity, the iniquity and the folly of the enterprize, I did believe that col Burr was circumvented by some foreign power. With respect to revolutionizing the territory, I could not place any solid confidence in it, until I received the communication of James L. Donaldson, Esq. when combining all the circumstances I wrote my letter of the 12th of November. Mr Wickham. Then I understand you to say that this was the true state of your mind at the time? Gen. Wilkinson. Yes. [Repeated the question.] Gen. Wilkinson. Yes. [Repeated the question.] Mr. Wickham. Before you received the information of Swartwout from Natchez, you had received information from Baton Rouge, and of the state of things in the country? Gen. Wilkinson. Yes. Mr. Wickham. Before Swartwout's arrival