

relief, now have been referred to your committee, merged in this great resource of national credit \$3,999,651 71. (B.) The United States treating the assumed debts as a charge against the several States, under the act for a long time attempted, by indirect proposition and earnest appeal, to reclaim from the debtor States, the sum's standing against them formed in part by their assumption of those independent liabilities. To advantageous proposition and eloquent solicitation, the States with two exceptions responded by inaction. Congress wearied by succession of fruitless application, debated frequent propositions to release claims so little affording hope of realization. The last effort failing by a vote of 42 to 38. (C.) In all their attempts to extinguish the claim thus became in effect nominal, not one word or syllable of report, resolution or law, advances the argument of the nature of the debt as a reason for its release---the alleged motive to the attempt, was equally influential though not quite so honorable to the recusant States, that they would not pay and the power's of the government were inadequate to coerce collection.

The existing records of the public departments still present those inexorable States as debtors to the General Government, and establish the position that the assumption of 1790 was not intended as an acknowledgment by the United States of obligatory indebtedness, but as (what is now advocated) an advance of government credit, in aid of States retarded and embarrassed by pecuniary burthen. Your committee resting with confidence upon this precedent of action, will not delay further examination of the subject submitted to them by citing analogous authority for their view of constitutional power in the convention of Hawksberry and King, formed under the authority and sanctioned by the approval of Mr. Jefferson. We regard then the Constitutional power as adjudged to exist by authority, so elevated as to make its question almost an exhibition of intellectual hardihood. We proceed to examine the remaining objections of the Executive.

2nd. That the adoption of this plan would render direct taxation by the General Government inevitable---we might easily answer this objection, by simple reference to the condition of Maryland. The burthen of direct taxation is already upon her people---sensibly felt and heavily borne---and if the State relief sought should involve a similar necessity on the part of the General Government the degree of relative evil could only be ascertained by comparison of results. Such examination it occurs to your committee, would conclusively terminate in advocacy of the scheme. The interest bearing portion of the debt of Maryland is Ten Millions of dollars---the annual tax necessary to its discharge \$600,000. By the plan proposed, Maryland's share of stock would be nearly Six Millions at three per cent. or chargable with the annual burthen of \$180,000---the interest upon the remaining Four Millions of her debt would be \$240,000. Upon no principle of equity could the assessment of a direct tax upon Maryland, exceed the amount of indebtedness assumed for her---and if this necessity were induced by