

BY THE SENATE, JANUARY 20, 1787.

GENTLEMEN,

WE are sorry that our proposal to reduce the allowances to the members of the general assembly from seventeen shillings and six-pence to fourteen shillings per day, should have given such offence as to produce the remarks in your message of this day by Mr. Seney. We are of opinion, that fourteen shillings per day is sufficient to defray the necessary expences of the members attending the assembly. The proposition was made under the impression, that it was neither proper or even desired that more should be paid than what was absolutely necessary to cover those expences. We did not imagine that the proposed reduction of the allowance would have the most distant tendency to exclude persons of moderate fortunes from a seat in the legislature, or to secure to the more affluent the sole exercise of the right of legislation; and your indirect censure proceeds, we suspect, rather from some degree of warmth than from any real opinion existing in your house, that there is any such design entertained by this: We shall not however be deterred by the fear of such censures, or of other consequences, from proposing what we think right. In the neighbouring states of Virginia and Pennsylvania, we are informed the per diem allowance does not exceed twelve and six-pence. In this state the allowance has been different at different times; it depends on an annual vote of the assembly. We take the liberty to suggest, that when they who receive settle the quantum to be received, it is more prudent to be under than above the proper compensation. We wish indeed, that the allowance was settled by some permanent rule which might relieve the assembly from the delicate situation they are annually placed in of voting their own allowances. Although desirous to retrench every unnecessary public expence, we are unwilling to violate the public faith, and to deprive the civil officers of the settled salaries, not more than adequate to their services. The difference between officers who devote the whole, or the greater part of their time to public duties, and members of assembly attending occasionally, and for a few months, must be obvious. The fees of officers and attorneys are not in any degree connected with the expences of government; these fees are settled by law, which have continued a considerable time, and we do not know that they are too high; we have not the time at present to examine into this subject, and make a new regulation, if wanting.

In rejecting the bill to reduce the salaries of the governor, chancellor, judges, and other officers, for the time therein mentioned, we do not depart from those principles which we trust will always direct this house to an uniformity of conduct on cases similarly circumstanced; but we cannot subscribe to the doctrine of your message, that to preserve uniformity, similar determinations must be given on cases altogether different. It appears to us, that the difference of opinion between the two houses, respecting their allowances, is no just cause to delay passing and paying other charges on the journal of accounts.

In answer to your message of this forenoon by Mr. Sherwood, we shall barely remark, that the system of an emission of paper money, the only one proposed by your house to provide for the exigencies of government, appeared to us to be utterly incompetent to afford relief, and was therefore unanimously rejected by this house. It is not the province of the senate to point out the ways and means of raising money from the people; had we presumed to offer in a message any plans for this purpose, you might have construed it a departure from the strict line of our duty, and a breach of your privilege; however, we have more than once intimated our earnest desire to co-operate with you, and to afford every assistance in our power in devising and adopting such measures as might effectually extricate us from our present and pressing difficulties, with the least possible burthen and charge to the people, and you have declined any intercourse with us for these purposes.

This house will adjourn to the twentieth day of April next.

By order,

J. DORSEY, clk.

The resolution respecting allowances to the clerks and other officers of this general assembly, was read the second time and dissented to.

The following message was prepared, agreed to, and, with the above resolution, sent to the house of delegates by George Gale, Esquire.

BY THE SENATE, JANUARY 20, 1787.

GENTLEMEN,

WE will agree to a resolution directing that the clerks and other officers of the general assembly shall be paid any sum not exceeding fourteen shillings per day for their services; and we will also agree, that any charges on the journal, except those which have been objected to by this house, may be paid.

By order,

J. DORSEY, clk.

ORDERED, That the printer be directed to print one thousand copies of that part of the message of this day, sent by John Henry, Esquire, which is an answer to the message of the house of delegates, before directed to be printed.

The paper bills from No. 1 to No. 54 inclusive, except No. 45, 46 and 47, were sent to the house of delegates by Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, Esquire.

Mr. R. Bowie, from the house of delegates, delivers to the president the following resolution:

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, JANUARY 20, 1787.

RESOLVED, That the treasurer of the western shore pay to the several persons who have allowances on the journal of accounts, except the members of the house of delegates as such, the sums thereby appearing due to them respectively, out of any monies in his hands, or that may come to his hands, and which is not appropriated, and that the said treasurer may give certificates of such allowances,