

Mr. Chase, from the committee appointed to draft a message to the senate, on the subject of the bill to declare the law, &c. brought in a draught, which was read, and follows in these words:

By the HOUSE of DELEGATES, June 22, 1778.

May it please your honours,

THIS house are greatly surpris'd at your dissent to the bill, declaring that all persons required by the act, entitled, An act for the better security of the government, to take the oath or affirmation of support and fidelity to this state, and who did not take the same within six weeks after the first day of March last, are liable to the treble tax on all public and county assessments, and other disabilities mentioned in the said act. A bare negative can neither inform us or the public of the motives which governed your honours in rejecting the said bill. As we suppose your honours have reasons for your negative, we cannot but wish you would disclose them to this house. Nothing but a sense of the importance of the bill, and an anxious solicitude, that our and your constituents should have the fullest information respecting the conduct of both houses on all momentous subjects, could have incited us, at this time, to call on your honours for the reasons which influenced you to dissent to a law, in which, as we conceive, the welfare and happiness of our country are so deeply involved.

The question being put, That the house concur therewith? Passed in the affirmative.

A F F I R M A T I V E.

	Ford,	Maccubbin,	Maddux,	Ward,	Edelen,	Chase,
	Read,	Chew,	Strawbridge,	West,	Thomas,	Sprigg,
Messrs	R. Barnes,	Forbes,	Smoot,	Magruder,	Young,	J. Barnes,
	Plowder,	Shepherd,	Henry,	Contee,	Dickinson,	Burgess,
	Lethrbury,	Gibson,	Murray,	Brice,	Mason,	Williams,
	Maxwell,	H. Goldborough,	Duffin,	Quynn,	Smith,	Bayly.
	Worthington,	W. Goldborough,	Veazey,			

N E G A T I V E.

	Lloyd,	Stevenfon,	R. Goldborough,	Sheredine,	H. Wilson,	Bond.
M ^r	Deye,					

The message was sent to the senate by Mr. Lethrbury and Mr. Henry.

The committee of elections and privileges report, That by the return of the sheriff of Anne-Arundel county, it appears that Nicholas Maccubbin, jun. Esq; is duly elected a member for said county in the room of John Hall, Esq; who resigned.

Adjourned till next day 9 o'clock.

T U E S D A Y, June 23, 1778.

THE house met. Present the same members as on yesterday, except Mr. Smithson. The proceedings of yesterday were read. Mr. M'Pherson appeared in the house.

Mr. Robert Goldborough brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker a bill, entitled, An act for the relief of certain nonjurors, which was read the first time, and ordered to lie on the table.

The following resolutions being propounded to the house were considered and approved.

RESOLVED, That it is the opinion of this house, that all persons who did not take the oath or affirmation of fidelity and support to this state prescribed by the act, entitled, An act for the better security of the government, on or before the twelfth day of April last, are, and of right ought to be, liable to the treble tax on all public and county assessments, and to all the pains, penalties, and disabilities of nonjurors, saving to such persons who have taken the oath or affirmation aforesaid, since the time aforesaid, the right of commencing and prosecuting suits, and using and practicing the trade of merchandise.

RESOLVED, That it is the opinion of this house, that the sheriffs and other collectors of the public and county assessments respectively do and ought to collect and levy of and from all such persons who have not taken the oath or affirmation aforesaid, on or before the time aforesaid, the treble tax on all public and county assessments, and that upon a refusal or neglect to collect as aforesaid, the bonds of such sheriffs and collectors so refusing or neglecting, ought and shall be put in suit.

This house being informed, That several of the justices of Talbot county, at an adjourned March court for their county, in the first week of June instant, did admit sundry persons to take the oath or affirmation required by the act for the better security of the government, and to discharge them from the treble tax; and this house esteeming such conduct contrary to the letter, intention and spirit of the said act, and evasive thereof, therefore RESOLVED, That the governor and the council be requested to enquire into the above facts, and if found to be true, that they remove the said justices from their offices, and appoint others in their places.

On motion, RESOLVED, That the governor and the council be authorized to order the public records, books, and papers, removed from the city of Annapolis on account of the enemy, or such