

Should congress adopt and enforce a due obedience to such an order, we flatter ourselves it would suppress in a great degree the conversion of public money to private uses; that it would render the deputies, employed in the departments above mentioned, more honest, attentive and industrious, and would cause the principals to keep a stricter watch over their deputies. It may prevent that shameful waste and imbezzlement of provisions and public stores, which, to the disgrace of the persons immediately entrusted with the custody and delivery thereof, and to the vast detriment of the public, have near doubled, as we have good reason to believe, the expence of the war, and by lessening our resources, contribute to its prolongation, and to the encrease of our burthens, already too great.

It is our earnest wish the war should be carried on without any farther emissions of bills of credit; we doubt however the practicability of this measure, yet every means ought to be tried to lessen those emissions: estimates of the expences for the ensuing campaign should be formed; and in forming these, the expences of the last may give some insight and direction: our past misfortunes or mismanagement, if we are willing to profit by experience, may here be serviceable to us: our plans of future operations should be proportioned to our means and resources; these must not be strained to carry on distant expeditions into the wilderness, or among inhospitable sands and deserts; nor should the forces and money of the United States, be employed in subduing countries for the exclusive advantage of particular states. Wherefore we instruct you to oppose all expeditions either to East or West Florida, to Detroit, into the Illenois country, or into Canada, or to Halifax.

To concentre and draw our forces to a point, seems most expedient in the present situation of our affairs, and the most probable method of compelling the enemy to quit our county, acknowledge our independence, and terminate the war. When these events happen, the countries just mentioned will either be ceded to us by the treaty of peace as unprofitable to Great-Britain, and by way of damages, or soon after the peace they will of their own accord accede to our confederacy through interest or policy. From the dispersion and employment of our forces on remote enterprizes, we apprehend a diminution of their number, a continuance of the war, an encrease of expence, and the impolitic aggrandizement of some states at the cost and hazard of others. These are not imaginary fears, but in part grounded on the conduct of the states alluded to; for we are informed, that the quota of troops of this state serving under the commander in chief, exceeds in point of numbers, the quota of troops from any other state; it has been said, that a part of the quota of troops of Virginia, has been employed in compelling the settlers in the Illinois country to take an oath of allegiance to that state, instead of waging war against the common enemy, in pursuance of common councils, and a common interest.

We hear from good authority, that congress has voted an additional bounty of twenty dollars to every able bodied recruit. Had other states completed last spring their respective quotas, in proportion to the complement of the quota of this state, we apprehend the additional bounty would not have been necessary at this time. It seems therefore unequal and unjust that any part of that additional bounty should be a charge upon this state; let those states be chargeable therewith, whose remissness or self interested and partial views, occasioned the deficiencies of their quotas, and induced the necessity of a further bounty. A proposal was made, and the question moved, "that the expence of such bounty should be charged to the states, in proportion to the deficiencies of their respective quotas."

This motion, the justice of which could not be controverted, was postponed by the previous question, a proceeding, in our opinion, indicative of a desire in that instance to evade at least, if not to deny justice. And we do further instruct and direct you, not to consent to charge or burthen this state with any part of the additional bounty of twenty dollars to recruits, beyond the proportion aforesaid, and to certify unto us the reasons assigned, if any were assigned, for putting off by the previous question, the decision of a plain point, determinable at the first view.

For our better information of the doings of congress, we direct you to make abstracts of all material transactions, to minute down the votes on all interesting questions, and the reasons alleged in support of measures carried against your own opinions and votes.

And whereas abuses may prevail, by suffering the continental agents residing in any of the United States to carry on trade on their own account;

We do direct you to move for a resolve of congress to prohibit all such agents from engaging in commerce, or in any kind of merchandize, for their own private emolument, or from employing other persons in trust to traffic for them.

We are now come to a subject, in which, unfortunately, a supposed difference of interests, has produced an almost equal division of sentiments among the several states composing the union. We say a supposed difference of interests, for if local attachments and prejudices, or the avarice and ambition of individuals, would give way to the dictates of a sound policy, founded on the principles of justice, (and no other policy but what is founded on those immutable principles deserves to be called sound) we flatter ourselves this apparent diversity of interests would soon vanish, and all the states would confederate on terms mutually advantageous to all, for they would then