

should we succeed in obtaining such article or articles, then you are hereby fully empowered to accede to the confederation.

That these our sentiments respecting the confederation may be more publicly known, and more explicitly and concisely declared, we have drawn up the annexed declaration, which we instruct you to lay before congress, to have it printed, and to deliver to each of the delegates of the other states in congress assembled copies thereof, signed by yourselves, or by such of you as may be present at the time of the delivery, to the intent and purpose that the copies aforesaid may be communicated to our brethren of the United States, and the contents of the said declaration taken into their serious and candid consideration.

Lastly, we desire and instruct you to move at a proper time, that these instructions be read to congress by their secretary, and entered on the journals of congress. We have spoken with freedom, as becomes freemen; and we sincerely wish, that these our representations may make such an impression on that assembly, as to induce them earnestly to endeavour to suppress the abuses pointed out in the course of these instructions, and to make such addition to the articles of confederation, as may bring about a permanent union.

Which were read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

The following message:

By the HOUSE of DELEGATES, December 12, 1778.

May it please your honours,

WE have agreed to your amendment for continuing the bill, entitled, An act to prevent distilling grain into spirit, until the first day of July next, but have disagreed to your other amendments, the effect of which we take to be, that the act shall commence on the 10th of January, liable to be suspended by the governor and council, unless similar laws pass in the neighbouring states before that time, until twenty days after they have given notice that such laws have passed in all the said states. We do not incline to deprive our own people of any advantages they may have by their industry to raise money for defraying the taxes they are likely to be burthened with, and therefore do not wish to leave them in a state of uncertainty, or that the act should take place to their prejudice, when our neighbours may leave themselves at large by passing no such laws. We are willing however to shorten the time of notice from thirty to twenty days, in conformity to the opinion your honours entertain that twenty days is sufficient time for notice by proclamation. And the bill may pass for engrossing, if you agree that it shall stand as it now does as to the commencement, changing the notice from thirty to twenty days, and having continuance to the first of July next.

By order, J. DUCKETT, cl. ho. del.

Being prepared, was sent to the senate by Mr. Brice and Mr. Norris.

The amendments proposed to the bill to encrease the allowance to magistrates, and for other purposes therein mentioned, were read, and the question was put, That the said bill do pass with the amendments? Resolved in the affirmative.

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

Messieurs	Sewell,	Maccubbin,	Jackson,	Evans,	Mason,	Chase,
	Thomas,	H. Ridgely,	Veazey,	Gibson,	Keene,	Sprigg,
	Wilmer,	Digges,	Ward,	Bordley,	Potter,	Bayly.
	Hall,	Polk,	Job,			

N E G A T I V E.

Messieurs	Mackall,	Strawbridge,	Gantt,	Quynn,	Bruff,	M'Comas,
	Worthington,	Deye,	Bowie,	Brice,	Bond,	Stainton,
	Harrison,	Stevenson,	Magruder,	H. Goldsborough,	Norris,	Cramphin.
	Dent,					

The bill was then ordered to be engrossed.

Robert Goldsborough, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the resolves of this morning, Nos. 2, 3, 4, 6, severally endorsed; "By the senate, December 12, 1778: Read and assented to.

"By order, R. RIDGELY, cl. sen."

And the resolve respecting the allowance of forty shillings, &c. per day, to each member of the general assembly, thus endorsed; "By the senate, December 12, 1778: Read and dissented to.

"By order, R. RIDGELY, cl. sen."

The house dispensed with the rule respecting new business, and on motion, leave given to bring in an additional supplementary bill to the act, entitled, An act for the better security of the government. ORDERED, That Mr. Chase, Mr. Polk, Mr. Maddux, Mr. Hall, and Mr. Thomas, do prepare and bring in the same.

Charles Carroll, Barrister, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the following message:

By