

A memorial of Conrod Theodore Wederstrandt, praying to be allowed commission on wheat and flour purchased by him for the use of the continent, and seized by the commissioners under the act for the immediate supply of flour and other provisions for the army, was preferred and read, and referred to the committee appointed to enquire into the conduct of the commissioners for seizing flour, &c.

Mr. Banning has leave of absence.

Joseph Sim, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker a petition of William Bowie 3d, of Prince-George's county; and a petition of Josias Shaw, of Prince-George's county, praying an act may pass, admitting to record and giving effect to a deed from George Conn to the said Josias Shaw, for a tract of land called William and Anne.

Mr. Earle brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the following message:

✓ BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APRIL 12, 1780.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOURS,

THE two requisitions of congress, of the 25th of February and 18th of March last, have been considered in this house, and we have determined to exert our utmost endeavours to furnish the supplies of provisions in kind, and, from the peculiar situation and extreme exigency of our public affairs, to adopt and carry into execution, as far as possible, the advice and plan of congress relative to their bills of credit. We conceive these two subjects to involve the greater part of the material business of the session. A committee has been appointed to consider and report the ways and means which this state can exert to answer the wish and intention of congress by those requisitions. This house are satisfied that it is impracticable to call in, by taxes, the sum required by congress; to collect, by taxes, the monthly sum of one million five hundred and eighty thousand dollars will be inconvenient, and very distressing to the people; and to raise, by taxes, the whole sum of twenty-three million seven hundred thousand dollars, or the greater part of it, within the time limited by congress, will be impossible. The supplies required by the resolve of the 25th of February (if they could be obtained at the prices limited by congress) would require above two hundred thousand pounds in specie or new bills of equal value, and if to be purchased at forty prices, eight million, and at fifty prices, ten million, of pounds, in continental bills of credit. We have reason to believe the greater part of the supplies of flour, corn, and wheat, is already procured, but provision still remains to be made for the payment of the creditors. To call in, by taxes, our quota of the continental emissions, and to furnish, by taxes, money to purchase the supplies, not less than a hundred pounds in the present bills of credit would be required for every hundred pounds of actual property.

Our affairs are brought to an alarming crisis. Your honours are fully informed, and we shall not attempt to urge the necessity for this and every other state to make immediate and most vigorous exertions. We are willing to impose taxes on our constituents as far as their abilities will permit. We are anxiously solicitous to establish very ample funds, and to afford the most undoubted security, for the redemption of the new bills of credit. We view this measure absolutely and indispensably necessary. The existence of our army, the continuance of the war, and the maintainance of our independence and our liberties, depend greatly, if not wholly, on the credit and value the several states can give to the new emissions. We intend to appropriate confiscated British property, with the addition of certain duties on imports and exports, to this salutary and necessary purpose. The public service and the very urgent demands on congress require, that the new bills be put into circulation as soon as possible. Under this impression we sent you the bill to confiscate British property (debts excepted) to the use of the state, subject to the disposition of the general assembly. We wish not to dispose of any part of it, unless the two houses should agree to sell that which may be perishable, or unprofitable; but our desire is to pledge that property (or as much as may be necessary) with the profits, as a specific fund for the redemption of the new emissions, in specie, agreeable to the resolve of congress of the 18th of March last. With the application of British property, we are of opinion, this state can comply, in substance, with the two requisitions of congress, and without the aid of that property we really fear it will be impracticable, if not impossible. The important and necessary business of the session therefore waits your honours decision on the bill for confiscation, and as the same has been above a week before you, and the subject long since under your consideration, we request your honours to give your determination, with as much expedition as the importance of the subject and the present urgency of our affairs require.

By order,

F. GREEN, clk.

Which was read.

The petition of Henry Griffith was read the second time, and referred to the committee appointed to consider and report on the petitions of nonjurors.

The petition of John Galloway was read the second time, and referred to Mr. J. Hall, Mr. Key, Mr. Sprigg, Mr. Stricker, and Mr. Chapline, who are appointed a committee to consider and report thereon.

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