

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS, MARCH, 1780. 147

Charles Carroll of Carrollton, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker a letter from George Plater, Esq; dated Philadelphia, May 2, 1780, enclosing a copy of a letter from general Lincoln, from Charles-town, of the 9th of April; which were read.

The question was put, That the bill for bringing into the treasury the sum of twenty million five hundred and forty thousand dollars, and sinking the same, &c. which yesterday had a second reading, do pass? The yeas and nays being called for by Mr. Deye appeared as follow:

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

Messrs	Reed,	W. Stevenson,	Fitzbugh,	Ward,	Chase,	Driver,
	Jordan,	Worthington,	Smith,	Job,	Earle,	Keene,
	Mackall,	J. Hall,	Johns,	B. Hall,	Ringgold,	Sprigg,
	Wilmer,	H. Ridgely,	Birkhead,	Magruder,	Gaunt,	Bayly.
	Lethrbury,	Maccubbin,	J. Henry,	Quynn,		

N E G A T I V E.

Messrs	Williamson,	Harrison,	J. Stevenson,	Beatty,	Norris,	M'Mechen,
	Freeland,	Deye,	C. Ridgely,	M'Comas,	Taylor,	Alexander.

So it was resolved in the affirmative.

The house adjourns till half past 2 o'clock.

P O S T M E R I D I E M.

The house met.

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

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, MAY 5, 1780.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOURS,

THE rejection by your honours of the bill to confiscate the property of our enemies to the use of the state, subject to the disposition of the general assembly, has involved this house in very great difficulties. Your honours having offered no reasons for your negative, we still retain our former opinion, both with respect to the justice and policy of the measure. We are fully satisfied, that the seizure of British property is supported by the law and practice of civilised nations. We intended to remove every objection to the passage of the bill, and therefore declined to draw any line to ascertain what persons are British subjects; and were willing to leave the determination of that question to the judicial power. We omitted to mention the absentees in the bill; and unless by the law of nations, or the common law, they can be considered as British subjects, they would not be affected by our bill; which only confiscated the property of the subjects of that nation. As your honours, at the last session, expressed yourselves greatly averse to the sale of British property, we have given no reason by the present bill to conclude we intended to dispose of it, and in our message (of the 12th of April last) we informed your honours, that it was not the intention of this house to dispose of any part of it, unless what the two houses should agree to sell as perishable and unprofitable, and that we wished to pledge the whole (or as much as might be necessary) with the profits, as a specific fund for the redemption of the new emissions, in specie, agreeable to the requisition of congress. We flattered ourselves with your honour's assent to the bill, from the utility of the measure, and the reflection that your honours, in your message of the 23d of December, declared that it could not be inferred from your former message (of the 20th of December) that you were against the seizure of British property and the appropriation of it, to enable us to carry on the war, as you only intimated your opinion, that so new and important a subject might lie over for the consideration of a future meeting, to receive a further discussion.

The committee of this house, appointed to consider the requisitions of congress of the 25th of February and 18th of March, have reported, that the same ought to be complied with as far as possible, and the estimates of expence handed in amount to upwards of sixty million of dollars, and we believe, the expence of carriage and other contingent expences considered, those estimates are not too large. We wish this state to exert every effort in its power to comply with the two requisitions of congress. For this purpose we have herewith sent your honours two bills; one for the imposition of taxes, and the other to bring into the treasury our proportion of the continental emissions. By the first we have imposed (in addition to the five pound tax) twenty pounds on every hundred pounds of property, one half payable the 10th of June, and the residue the 10th of November; and for the supply of provisions, we have laid a tax of 28 pounds of tobacco on every £. 100 of property, which is £. 25 4 on every £. 100, payable the first of September. By the second bill we have proposed to bring in twenty million five hundred and forty thousand dollars (our quota of the congress emissions) by offering the holders one dollar of the new emission for every 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ dollars brought in. To establish the best funds in our power for the redemption of the new bills, we have laid duties on certain imports and exports, and other rates, and appropriated the monies arising from fines and forfeitures, and the sale of estates forfeited for treason,