

“ WE agree to your proposal to except debts out of the confiscation of British property; and, as there will then remain only two questions on which we differ from your honours, the first, whether imported merchandise destroyed on the land within the state, and the second, whether unrigged vessels destroyed under the circumstances expressed in the bill, should be let in for an indemnification, out of the balance of British property which may remain after payment of debts, equally with other property, if destroyed, and proposed to be indemnified by the bill, we agree to your proposal to refer the propriety thereof to the discussion of a future session; but as the exception of imported merchandise would prejudice the determination of the question, we propose the following clause to be added to the bill:

“ And, whereas there are and may be divers other sufferers by the enemy, Be it enacted, That in case any person who hath taken the oath of fidelity and support to this state, and who hath exerted, and shall continue to exert himself in support of the freedom and independence of America, and hath had his newly launched and unrigged vessel taken or destroyed within this state by the enemy, or shall have his unrigged vessel taken or destroyed within this state by the enemy within twenty days after her being launched, or hath had or shall have his imported merchandise taken or destroyed by the enemy on the land within this state, all or any of such sufferers may or may not be let in for indemnification with the other sufferers herein before mentioned, as the general assembly shall hereafter think fit and direct.”

The yeas and nays being called for by Mr. Chase appeared as follow:

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

Messrs. Maccubbin,	Whitely,	Magruder,	Morris,	Alexander,	Ja. Chapline;
Freeland,	Craufurd,	Chase,	Dashiell,	Jo. Chapline,	Uncle.
Shaw,	Duckett,	Quynn,			

N E G A T I V E.

Messrs. Mills,	E. Johnson,	Hammond,	Job,	Taylor,	Barnes,
Plowden,	Causin,	Hindman,	Clagett,	M'Comas,	Cramphin,
W. Stevenson,	Hanson,	Sulivane,	Dennis,	Norris,	Bayly,
Wilmer,	J. Stevenson,	Lawson,	T. Johnson,	M'Mechen,	Hungertord.

So it was determined in the negative.

The house adjourns till half after 3 o'clock.

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

The house met.

Samuel Hughes, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the bill to detect and punish the disaffected and spies, and persons corresponding and trading with the enemy, &c. endorsed;

“ By the senate, January 29, 1781: Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

“ By order, J. MACCUBBIN, clk.

“ By the senate, January 31, 1781: Read the second time and will pass with the proposed amendments.

“ By order, J. MACCUBBIN, clk.”

Amendments proposed. Page 1. After the word “ person” in the third line from the bottom, insert “ who hath resided in any of the United States.”

Page 2. In the eleventh line strike out from the word “ by” to the word “ and” in same line, and insert “ warrant from any justice of the peace, lieutenant of the county, or militia field officer.” After the word “ any,” in the eighth line from the bottom, insert “ lieutenant of the county.”

Page 3. At the bottom insert the following proviso: “ Provided that nothing herein contained shall prevent any person who hath taken the oath of allegiance, and otherwise manifested his attachment to the state of which he is an inhabitant, from residing in this state, without taking the oath of allegiance to this state as aforesaid, if he should be compelled to leave his own by the common enemy.” Strike out the fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh pages, respecting commissioners.

Page 8. Strike out from the word “ any” in the second line to the word “ any” in the same line, and insert “ the lieutenant of the county, or militia field officer, may arrest or cause to be arrested.” After the word county in the seventh line insert “ and give the governor and council information thereof, that they may take order therein, or may send such arrested person to the governor and council under guard for the purpose aforesaid.”

Page 9. In the sixth and seventh lines, strike out “ said commissioners,” and insert “ lieutenant of the county, magistrate, or militia field officer.”

Page 10. After the word “ council,” in the eighth line, insert “ lieutenant of the county, magistrate, or militia field officer.” In the fifth line from the bottom, strike out “ or the said commissioners,” and insert “ lieutenant of the county, magistrate, or militia field officer.” In the last line, strike out “ may be so suspected”, and insert “ against whom information may be given as aforesaid.”