

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

Messrs.	Key, F. Bond, Somerville, B. Worthington, Gantt,	Jones, Turner, Stone, Ridgely, Ridgely of Wm.	John Dashiell, Adams, Waters, Waggaman,	Ennalls, Miller, Ramsey, Quynn,	Craille, Joseph Dashiell, Parnell, Faw,	Carey, J. Bond, Steret, Oneale.
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N E G A T I V E.

Messrs.	N. Worthington, Taney, Fraizer,	Baker, Oglevee, W. Bowie,	R. Bowie, F. Bowie, Bracco,	John Seney, Beatty,	Norris, Love,	Wheeler, Funk.
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So it was resolved in the affirmative.

Sent to the senate, with the paper bill No. 80, by Mr. Somerville.

Edward Lloyd, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the engrossed bills No. 80 and 81, with the paper bills thereof, which engrossed bills were thus endorsed; "By the senate, March 11, 1786: Read and assented to.

"By order,

J. DORSEY, clk."

And also a bill, entitled, An act to make valid the proceedings of the vestry of St. Peter's parish in Talbot county, and for other purposes therein mentioned, endorsed; "By the senate, March 11, 1786: Read the first and second time by especial order and will pass.

"By order,

J. DORSEY, clk."

Which was read the first and second time by especial order and passed. Sent to the senate, with the paper bill No. 81, by Mr. Bracco.

Samuel Hughes, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the following message:

By THE SENATE, MARCH 11, 1786.

GENTLEMEN,

WE cannot accede to the proposal in your message of Wednesday by Mr. Stone, to ballot for commissioners to meet commissioners from the other states in the union, for the purpose of considering an uniform system of commercial regulations. The meeting proposed appears to us liable to some weighty objections, which have induced us to decline going into the appointment. This state has already given certain powers to congress by a public act, respecting the regulation of the trade of the United States; by that body, who are finally to adopt the regulation and carry it into execution, we think it most suitable that the system should be digested and formed.

A speedy adoption of the resolution of congress of the 18th of April 1783, we esteem of the utmost importance to the union; we are therefore averse to any measure which may possibly tend to procrastinate or counteract the collection of the revenue indispensably necessary towards enabling congress to pay the interest of the national debt. Besides, the meeting proposed may be misunderstood or misrepresented in Europe, give umbrage to congress, and disquiet the citizens of the United States, who may be thereby led erroneously to suspect, that the great council of this country wants either the will or wisdom to digest a proper uniform plan for the regulation of their commerce. The power must be given to congress to effectuate any system which might be adopted by the proposed meeting of commissioners. When the power shall be vested in congress by all the states, that body, we doubt not, will be willing and competent to form an equal and judicious system for regulating the trade of these states.

The meeting of the commissioners, as proposed by the commonwealth of Virginia, we are convinced was made with the best intentions, and with a view to promote the general interest of the union; this meeting, however, should it take place, may produce other meetings, which may have consequences which cannot be foreseen. Innovations in government, when not absolutely necessary, are dangerous, particularly to republics, generally too fond of novelties, and subject to change. Until a general power is vested in congress, a communication between neighbouring states, may be useful, and we think, cannot be dangerous. We therefore propose, that the same gentlemen who were appointed commissioners in seventeen hundred and eighty-four, to meet the commissioners of Virginia, shall be authorized to meet any commissioners from Virginia, to confer on the several subjects mentioned in the report of the commissioners of Virginia and Maryland; and also we agree, that commissioners be appointed to meet and confer with any commissioners from Pennsylvania and Delaware, who may be authorized by those states respectively to confer on the said subjects, and this power may also be given to the gentlemen already nominated to meet the commissioners of the last mentioned states. We therefore propose, that the governor be requested to inform the governor of Virginia, and the honourable Edmund Randolph, that this state having empowered the United States in congress assembled to impose duties on imports, agreeably to their resolve of the 18th of April 1783, and also having given authority to that assembly, for fifteen years, to prohibit exports to, and imports from, any country with which and the United States no treaty of commerce exists, or may be entered into, and apprehending the proposed meeting, though originating from the best intention, may tend to delay the adoption of the above resolve of congress, and the vesting that assembly with proper powers to regulate trade, by the states who have hitherto delayed to accede to these measures, and also that unforeseen consequences may result from such meeting, this legislature has declined to appoint commissioners for this purpose.

By order,

J. DORSEY, clk.