

National Gazette

By PHILIP FRENEAU.

VOL. I.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1791.

NUMB. 2.

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES.

MONDAY, October 31.

NATHANIEL NILES and **Israel Smith**, from Vermont; **Upton Sheredine**, from Maryland; **William Barry Grove**, from North-Carolina; and **Robert Barnewell**, from South-Carolina, appeared and took their seats.

Several petitions were read, viz. From **James Beers**, **Leonard Walter**, **Margaret Flour**, **Isaac Richards**, **Jedidiah Brown**, **William Haburn**, **John Fox**, and **Elizabeth Easton**, praying compensation for wounds received and services rendered in the army of the United States, during the late war.—Said petitions were severally referred to the Secretary at War.

A petition from **Richard Blackledge**, praying compensation for a quantity of leather, furnished in the late war; which was referred to the Secretary of the Treasury.

A memorial from **Joseph Ceracchi**, an Italian Sculptor, proposing to execute on a certain design, and conditions, a monument to perpetuate American liberty and independence.

According to the order of the day, the House resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the schedule of enumeration of the inhabitants of the United States.—In debating upon this subject,

Mr. Lawrance observed, that the ratio of representation and some provision respecting S. Carolina were the principal objects in view. He meant to propose a resolution relative to the representation, after which he thought the committee might defer the further consideration of this subject for some days, that gentlemen might have time to make up their minds upon the business. He then moved, that till the next census be taken, one member should continue to be the representative of thirty thousand inhabitants.

Mr. Livermore thought that the determination of their constituents ought to be previously known on the amendment to the constitution, proposing that the representation of one for every thirty thousand do continue until the number of Representatives shall amount to one hundred. The people's agreeing to that amendment would oppose the motion before the House. If the people rejected the amendment, he should oppose so large a representation as one for every thirty thousand.

Several other gentlemen having spoken on the subject,

Mr. Sedgwick, after reading to the House a calculation he had made, stating the number by which each state would be represented, according to the several ratios of representation, observed, that the general sense of the people seemed to be that the number of Representatives should be one hundred until increased by the ratio of one to forty thousand. He thought the ratio of 33 or 34,000 more conformable to public opinion than any other number; but that on this subject the House had nothing whereon to found their conclusions; for his own part he wished the House of Representatives always to consist of about one hundred members.

Mr. Livermore was for the ratio of one to forty thousand. The House would then consist of about eighty members. This would give less occasion for complaints of expence, and the public, in his idea, would be equally well served. He wished the House, if they settled any ratio might adopt that of one to 40,000.

Mr. White, said that the general voice of the people was for an increased representation at certain stated periods. One to thirty thousand seemed to be the general idea. The amendment proposed might not always give one to thirty thousand, but it would secure an increase of the representation as the population of the country increased. He concluded with wishing the House would not immediately decide on the subject.

Mr. Dayton wished the motion to lay over till tomorrow for further consideration. He thought the general sentiment to be in favour of thirty thousand, but as a medium between the opposite opinions, he moved an amendment for thirty-five thousand.

Mr. Seney was against any hasty decisions, especially when the House was so thin of members as at present. Upon a motion of his to that purpose, the committee rose, reported progress, and asked leave to sit again.

Mr. Smith (S. C.) wished that the state of South-Carolina might be allowed a longer time to make a return of their census, the enumeration being not yet completed, but would be so in a short time. He therefore made a motion to this effect which was ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Sedgwick, **Mr. Bourne (M.)** and **Mr. White** were appointed a committee to prepare and bring in a bill or bills providing the means by which persons charged in any state with treason, felony or other crime, who flee from justice, shall, on the demand of the executive authority of the state, from which they fled, be delivered up, to be removed to the state having jurisdiction of the crime; also providing the mode by which a person held to service or labour in one State under the laws thereof, escaping into another, shall be delivered up, on claim of the party to whom such service or labour may be due.

Mr. Ames, **Mr. Dayton**, **Mr. Brown**, **Mr. Fitzsimons**, and **Mr. Tucker** were appointed a committee to report a regular and uniform mode of proceeding in cases of contested Elections of Members of the House.

Upon motion of **Mr. Sedgwick** a committee was appointed to bring in a bill providing compensation for widows, orphans, and invalids in certain cases.—The committee, **Mr. Wadsworth**, **Mr. Smith (S. C.)** and **Mr. Silvester**.

Mr. Smith (S. C.) having moved to proceed on the President's speech, **Mr. Lawrance** proposed the deferring thereof till to-morrow, that the House might be acquainted with the proceedings of the Senate on that subject.

Upon motion of **Mr. Smith**, the question was taken and carried, that the whole House be discharged from farther proceeding on the President's speech, and that to-morrow be assigned for the consideration of the same. Adjourned.

TUESDAY, Nov. 1.

Two other members appeared and took their seats, viz. **Josiah Parker**, from Virginia, and **Anthony Wayne**, from Georgia.

A message in writing was then received from the President of the United States, by **Mr. Secretary Lear**, as follows—

United States, Nov. 1, 1791.
Gentlemen of the Senate and of the House of Representatives,

I RECEIVED yesterday from the judge of the district of South-Carolina, a letter inclosing the presentment, of the grand jury to him, and stating the causes which have prevented the return of the census from that district, copies of which are now laid before you.

G. WASHINGTON.

Another message was received from the President, viz.

United States, Oct. 31, 1791.
Gentlemen of the Senate and of the House of Representatives.

I send you herewith the arrangement which has been made by me, pursuant to the act, entitled, "An act repealing, after the last day of June next, the duties heretofore laid upon distilled spirits imported from abroad, and laying others in their stead; and also upon spirits distilled within the United States, and for appropriating the same," in respect to the sub-divisions of the several districts, created by the said act into surveys of inspection, the appointment of officers for the same, and the assignment of compensations.

G. WASHINGTON.

Mr. Muhlenberg, from the committee appointed to prepare and report such standing rules and orders of proceeding as are necessary to be observed in the House, made a report, which was read and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Smith (S. C.) called up his motion of yesterday for appointing a committee to bring in a bill granting longer time for the return of the South-Carolina census; upon which the question was taken up, and a committee appointed accordingly, consisting of **Mr. Smith (S. C.)**, **Mr. Boudinot**, and **Mr. Venable**, who soon after reported a bill for the above purpose, which having gone through a first and second reading was referred to a committee of the whole to-morrow.

Petitions were presented to the house from **Levi Farnsworth**, **Luce Bond** (widow of the late Col. William Bond, deceased) & **John Torrey** respectively praying the liquidation and payment of claims against the United States for military services rendered during the late war.—Referred to the Secretary at War, who is instructed to examine the same, and report thereupon to the house.

Upon motion of **Mr. B. Bourne**, it was ordered that the Secretary of the Treasury be directed to report to the house the amount of the subscriptions to the loans proposed by the act making provision for the public debt, as well in the debts of the respective states, as in the domestic debt of the United States, and of the parts which remain unsubscribed, together with such measures as are in his opinion, expedient to be taken on the subject.

The house then, according to the order of the day, proceeded to consider the speech of the President of the United States, which being read,

It was ordered that so much of the said speech as relates to the establishment of a militia, magazines, arsenals, and fortifications, be referred to **Mr. Wadsworth**, **Mr. Dayton**, **Mr. Giles**, **Mr. Ward**, **Mr. Gordon**, **Mr. Wayne**, and **Mr. Steele**, with instructions to bring in a bill, or bills, providing for the same.

Mr. White moved for the appointment of a committee, to report a bill for the establishment of a land-office.—**Mr. Williamson**, **Mr. White**, and **Mr. Boudinot**, were chosen a committee.

Mr. Lawrance moved for the appointment of a committee, to report a bill for the regulation of the trade and intercourse with the Indian tribes—committed to **Mr. White**, **Mr. Lawrance**, and **Mr. Steele**.

It was then ordered, that the Secretary of the Treasury, be directed to report to the House, such information as he may have obtained, respecting any difficulties which may have occurred in the execution of the act, "repealing, after the last day of June next, the duties heretofore laid upon distilled spirits imported from abroad, and laying others

in their stead; and also upon spirits distilled within the United States, and for appropriating the same;" together with his opinion thereupon. Adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, Nov. 2.

A petition of **John Torrey** was read, praying to be reimbursed a sum of money which he had been compelled to pay for waggonage on account of the United States.

Ordered to lie on the table.
A petition of **Robert Conyngham**, praying compensation for services rendered in the navy of the United States, in the late war.

Ordered to lie on the table.
The several petitions of **John Cooper**, **Robert Crooke**, **Robert Hodge**, **Oswald Keffelbaugh**, and **Abraham Levi**, respectively praying compensations for wounds received or services rendered in the army or navy of the United States during the late war. Referred to the Secretary at War.

Petitions of **Robert Aitken** and **Thomas Bradford**, printers, praying to be employed in the public printing business of the United States.

Ordered to lie on the table.
Petition of **Nicholas F. Westfall**, praying compensation for services rendered in the American army, in the late war.

Ordered to lie on the table.
Mr. Dayton moved the following resolution:

That the Secretary of the Treasury be directed to report to this house whether any, and what alterations, in favor of the spirits which shall be distilled from articles of the growth or produce of the United States, or from foreign articles within the same, can, in his opinion, be made in the act for laying duties upon spirits distilled within the United States, consistently with its main design, and with the maintenance of the public faith. Ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Giles called the attention of the House to a message from the President of the United States, containing a representation from the officers and soldiers of the Virginia line on continental establishment respecting bounty lands, &c. The papers accompanying said message being read, **Mr. Giles** moved that the same be referred to a select committee, to report their opinion upon, which motion was ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Giles moved a resolution in substance, that the Secretary at War be instructed to lay before the House a statement of all balances of pay which appear by the books in his office to be due to the officers and soldiers. Ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Vining moved a resolution, that a committee be appointed to prepare and bring in a bill to establish an uniform system of bankruptcy throughout the United States, which was read and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Dayton moved a resolution, that the board of commissioners for settling the accounts between the United States and individual states, be directed to report what progress they have made, and what prospect of the business being finally completed. Ordered to lie on the table.

Pursuant to the order of the day, the house resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the bill granting further time for making returns of the enumeration of the inhabitants in the district of S. Carolina; after some time the committee rose, and reported the bill with sundry amendments, some were agreed to, and others rejected, and the bill was then ordered to be engrossed.

A message was received from the Senate, informing that the petition of