WASHINGTON

Consideration of the National Currency Bill in the Senate.

Virtual Defeat of the New Tax Bill in the House.

The Ways and Means Committee Instructed to Report a Separate Bill for the Revision of the Whiskey and Tobacco Tax.

Confusion Among the Radical Leaders.

Proposed Reception of the Chinese Embassy by the Senate.

WASHINGTON, June 15, 1868.

Action of the House on the Tax Bill—Probable Reduction of the Whiskey Tax.

The advocates of pushing the Tax bill complete, as reported from the Committee on Ways and Means, to a termination this session are very much incensed at the action of the House to-day in cutting short their efforts to place the Revenue laws, as they say, upon a better basis. They declare with considerable emphasis that the country, now laboring under a burdensome system of taxation, will not look calmly upon this action depriving them of that relief which was looked for in the new bill. The Committee on Ways and Means are in such a state of excitement that they say it will take them a longer time to prepare a new bill on the articles of whiskey and tobacco than it would have required to finish the bill as reported. It is thought, however, when the committee consider the matter more deliberately and set to work upon the new duty devolved upon them by order of the House they will be able to report in the course of a week or ten days. There seems to be a general unanimity in favor of a reduction of the tax on whiskey to seventy-five or fifty cents per proof gallon, notwithstanding a strong outside pressure to keep it up to the present rate.

Distillers from the West Urging a Reduction of the Tax on Whiskey.

Delegations of distillers from Kentucky, Ohio, Illinois and Indiana are here urging the Ways and Means Committee to reduce the tax on whiskey to fifty cents per gallon. They state to the committee that by the reduction of the tax to these figures government would receive from those States alone more revenue in three months than it has received thus far from the whole United States. At this price they say it would be impossible for illicit distillers to ply their vocation. They further state that if the tax were reduced government would at once realize some $40,000,000 from whiskey now held back from market by themselves and other large distillers who cannot compete now with illicit distillers who defraud the government of the tax and sell whiskey at low rates. The committee are clearly of opinion that the present whiskey tax should be reduced, but they have not yet settled on the figures to be incorporated in the bill now before the House. A large amount of evidence has been produced before the committee relative to operations of the whiskey ring, and it has been shown to the satisfaction of the committee that there is a better chance for frauds with a tax of two dollars than with one of fifty or sixty cents per gallon.

Failure of the Resolution to Move the Capital.

The natives of this unique city were somewhat exercised to-day to learn the fate of Logan's motion to move the capital from here out West to some promising prairie in Illinois. For some time past they have had secret misgivings that the radicals, being capable of anything, were also equal to this tremendous enterprise, and now they have prepared themselves for the surprise of waking up some fine morning to see the Treasury, with its precious freight, moving off, via Baltimore, followed by both wings of the Capitol, the Post and Patent offices, and all in charge of John A. Logan, who will be supposed to occupy a position on the top of the Treasury pile, and deliver the entire national baggage safely into the hands of his constituents at Carbondale, the region of gas, in the State of Illinois. The motion failed, but the Washingtonians will have no taste for real estate for some time hence.

Movements of the Chinese Embassy.

The Chinese are feeling the effects of the warm weather in this locality and to-day they concluded to indulge in a long siesta. One or two ventured out, but Pennsylvania avenue proved too warm for them and they were glad to take a cool shelter in their rooms at their hotel. No set of foreigners has ever been so plagued as the Celestials for their autographs, and all day long they have been occupied in recording their interesting hieroglyphics in tea chest fashion on the immaculate pages of albums of all sizes. However, it seems to them a labor of love, or otherwise it would be a subject of commisseration. Mr. and Mrs. Burlingame, the secretaries and Captain Dolliver visited the National theatre this evening and witnessed Ristori's performance of "Sor Teresa." The Embassy seems disposed to take a rest for a few days longer.

Departure of the Turkish Minister on a Tour.

Blacque Bey, the Turkish Minister, left here this morning on a tour through the northern part of the United States and Canada. He will be absent about three months, and will visit Niagara Falls, Chicago, Canada, Newport and other watering places. Mr. Baltazzi, Secretary of Legation, will act as Chargé d'Affaires during the absence of Mr. Blacque.

Secretary McCulloch's Retirement Foreshadowed.

Rumors of immediate Cabinet changes have been so numerous within the past few months that it is almost useless to give them any consideration, but whispers hinting that an early change will be made in the Treasury Department, at least, are heard again from apparently well informed quarters, and a morning journal of this city, having some repute as an organ of the White House, is out this morning with an editorial which it is claimed is a foreshadowing of the retirement of Secretary McCulloch before the close of this week.

Resignation of Deputy Commissioner Harlan.

Resignations and rumors of resignations come thicker and faster. The report passing around within the past day or two to the effect that First Deputy Commissioner of Internal Revenue Harlan has resigned is confirmed. Mr. Harlan resigns, however, on the same conditions adopted by the Commissioner on the confirmation of his successor.

Reported Resignation of the Chief of the Bureau of Printing.

Rumors have been in circulation to the effect that S. M. Clark, Chief of the Bureau of Printing of the Treasury Department, has resigned his position, but upon inquiry nothing very definite can be ascertained in regard thereto, excepting that several days ago Mr. Clark intimated to Secretary McCulloch his readiness to resign upon the close of an examination into the affairs of his bureau by a special committee, to be appointed by the Secretary for that purpose, and an account of stock duly made and reported. No such committee has yet been appointed, although it is believed that such action will be taken, and that Mr. Clark's resignation will soon be tendered.

Commissioner Rollins to Reply to Secretary McCulloch.

Commissioner Rollins says that Secretary McCulloch is in error in believing that he gave a copy of his letter to the press before it was placed in the hands of the Secretary, and will, at an appropriate time, answer in full the important parts of the Secretary's last communication.

Senator Doolittle Not Connected with the Chase Movement.

It is not true, as stated, that Senator Doolittle was at the Chase meeting at Philadelphia, or took any part in its proceedings. The democratic and conservative members of Congress have made him chairman of their executive committee and he has not felt himself at liberty to take active measures in advance of the convention in relation to the candidate to be nominated.

The Trial of John H. Surratt to Commence Next Monday.

The counsel for John H. Surratt stated to-day in the Criminal Court that they were ready for trial; but the United States District Attorney said the government could not commence the case till next Monday, to which day it was postponed.

General Mott and the Costa Rica Mission.

The statement that the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations had decided to report adversely on the nomination of General T. P. Mott as Minister to Costa Rica is unauthorized and incorrect. The nomination has been withdrawn by the President at General Mott's own request, for private reasons.

Increased Salary of Department Clerks.

The clerks in the executive departments are unusually jubilant to-day over the passage in the House of the bill allowing twenty per cent increase of salary.

Movements of United States War Vessels.

Despatches have been received at the Navy Department announcing that the United States steamer Hartford, which has been relieved as flagship of the Asiatic squadron by the Piscataqua, left Singapore for the United States on the 23d of April. The United States steamer De Soto has arrived at Pensacola.

Land Office Reports.

Reports to the General Land Office show that during the month of May 286 farms, containing over 20,000 acres, were added to the productive area of Arkansas, by locations, at local land offices of Washington, Liitte Rock and Clarksville.

Reported Loss of a Bark Off Cape Hatteras.

It is reported here that a furious gale prevailed on Thursday last in the vicinity of Hatteras, and it has just been ascertained that the bark Astrea, with twelve of her crew, was lost near that dangerous point.

The Engraving and Printing Bureau.

It is ascertained from an official source that the engraving and printing bureau of the Treasury Department, under the charge of S. M. Clark, employs over six hunderd hands, about half of them females. Its expenses for the calendar year ending December 30, 1867, were for the pay of employés, $600,023 94; for materials paper, ink, chemicals, freight, fuel, light, &c., $260,085 84, making a total of $860,109 78. It manufactured during this period of ten-forty bonds, coupon and registered, $27,450,000; of five-twenties, $723,069,800; Pacific Railroad bonds, $38,000,000; gold notes, $240,000,000; three per cent certificates, $160,000,000; fractional c urrency, $23,330,651—making a total of $1,211,850,451. Of internal revenue beer stamps, $20,265,000; of cigar stamps, $7,780,000. It also finished—that is sealed, numbered, trimmed and separated—legal tenders and national bank notes, printed in New York, to $40,938,250 worth. The bureau also prints the circular blanks, &c., for the Treasury and its bureaus, and the confidential printing of the Executive and State departments. It also makes and prints the envelopes used by the Treasury Department, manufactures the paper used therefor as well as that used for circulars and bank note work, and rules and binds blank books for the department, from paper made and printed in the bureau, and performs various other services for the different bureaus, and makes and repairs its own engines and machinery. The work done by the bureau during this period if done elsewhere and paid for at current market rates would, it is said, cost about two millions of dollars. The bureau is now engaged in manufacturing bonds for issue under the act of March 3, 1865, in making fractional currency, the average quantity of which is over a half a million of notes daily; in printing cigar and beer stamps and the various drafts and certificates required in the office of the Treasurer of the United States; in printing circulars and blanks; making blank books, envelopes, &c., for the Treasurer's stationer; in engraving and re-entering plates, &c., and in sealing and finishing the legal tender and national bank notes printed in New York.

Decision of Secretary McCulloch in Relation to Certain Duties.

The Secretary of the Treasury made the following decisions:—

Where marine papers have been issued to a vessel since her purchase from the government she cannot, under existing laws, take a new name. Congress alone can authorize such a change.

Steam vessels plying solely in a particular harbor are not liable to enrolment and license.

No vessel is required to take out a coasting license unless she intends to engage in the coasting trade. Vessels moored to wharves, and used as storerooms or sailrooms, are clearly not liable to the payment of tonnage tax, inasmuch as not being vessels engaged in the coasting trade they are not required to take out a coasting license. The department has no authority to refund tonnage tax or fees for the portion of the year unexpired after the destruction of a vessel.

On the appraisement of certain wines made under article 532 of the general regulation, and on report that the invoice value represented the foreign market value at the period of exportation, the invoice value must be taken as the basis for the assessment of duties, although when sold at auction from a bonded store they bring a much less price. If the proceeds of such sale are insufficient to pay the duties the importers are liable on their bond for the deficiency.

The duty on perfumery—alcohol the principal ingredient—is three dollars per gallon and fifty per cent advalorem under section eleven of the act of June 30, 1864, and the Department's decision of December 23, 1867. Hat bands, commercially known as silk hat bands, are dutiable at sixty per cent.

The Vermont Central and Vermont and Canada railroads are designated as a route for the transportation of merchandise in bond under existing laws and the rules and regulations of the department. The withdrawal of carpets from bonded warehouses for the purpose of cutting and manufacture, so as to fit them to the saloons of a vessel destined for the trade of a foreign country, involves a change in the condition of such carpets, and this department cannot allow such withdrawal and subsequent return to bonded warehouse for the purpose of exportation.

Appraisements are final unless appealed from by the importer, and cannot be disturbed or set aside except on clear evidence of fraud or informality on the part of the appraiser.

Linen drills and coatings, if not brown or bleached, are dutiable as manufactures of flax.

Steel rails for railroads, duty 45 per cent ad valorem.

The duty on reimportation of articles of the growth, manufacture or production of the United States on which no internal revenue tax has been paid, provided for by section 12, act of July 28, 1866, must be paid in gold, according to decision of the department.

THE FORTIETH CONGRESS.

Second Session.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, June 15, 1868.

The CHAIR laid before the Senate petitions of the citizens of Ohio praying for the passage of Mr. Jenckes' Civil Service bill.

Mr. SUMNER, (rep.) of Mass., from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, reported a bill to carry into effect two decrees of the United States District Court of Louisiana, relative to certain British vessels.

THE COAST DEFENCES.

Mr. NYE, (rep.) of Nevada, introduced a bill relative to the coast defences, which was referred to the Committee on Ordnance. It directs the Secretary of War to advertise not less than thirty days for proposals to ascertain the cost of constructing one of Ryan & Hitchcock's revolving iron forts at the entrance of New York harbor, and organizes a board, consisting of the Secretary of War, the General of the Army and the Admiral of the Navy, to inquire into the merits and utility of such forts, with authority to make experiments in that view, and in case they deem it desirable, they are authorized to contract for the construction of one of them at said entrance.

SETTLEMENT OF PRIZE CASES.

Mr. HENDRICKS, (dem.) of Ind., from the Committee on Naval Affairs, reported with an amendment, a bill to facilitate the settlement of certain prize cases in the United States District Court of the Southern District of Florida.

SECURITY OF PASSENGERS ON STEAM VESSELS.

Mr. FOWLER (rep.) of Tenn., introduced a bill to provide for the better security of life on board of steamboats, steamships and other vessels, which was referred to the Committee on Commerce.

REFUNDING DUTIES.

Mr. MORGAN (rep) of N. Y, called up the bill to provide for refunding duties erroneously exacted in certain cases. It provides that the Secretary of the Treasury shall refund to importers in the city of New York the excess of duties exacted and paid upon importations of merchandise, subject to the specific duties, made subsequent to the passage of the tariff act of March 2, 1861, and prior to the passage of the act of July 14, 1862, caused by the non-allowance by the Collector of New York for draught upon such importations as provided by sections fifty-eight and fifty-nine of the act to regulate the collection of duties on imports and tonnage, as approved March 2, 1799. He offered the following amendment to be added at the end of the bill, "and the sum of $60,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any moneys not otherwise appropriated to carry into effect the purpose of this act." This was agreed to.

In reply to a question from Mr. Conness, whether New York is the only port in which relief is necessary, Mr. Morgan replied in the affirmative, saying the Treasury circular in question had been carried into effect in New York only. The bill was passed.

RELIEF OF CONTRACTORS.

Mr. DRAKE, (rep.) of Mo., called up the bill for the relief of certain contractors for the construction of vessels of war and steam machinery. He said the contractors had been unfairly treated by the commission appointed by the act of March 2, who reported favorably in regard to six iron-clads built in the East, and unfavorably in regard to the rest of the thirty-one, they having been built in the West; that all the contractors desired was permission to go to the Court of Claims and establish their claims.

Mr. CHANDLER, (rep.) of Mich., as a member of the late Committee on the Conduct of the War, recollected an investigation showing that a number of the Western iron-clads would not float when finished, and that after expensive alterations they were worse than before. In reply to Mr. Drake he said he could not recollect that those named in the bill referred to were among them, and he believed the responsibility attached to the Navy Department.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, (rep.) of N. J., representing the dissenting members of the Committee on Naval Affairs opposed the bill, claiming that there is no evidence before Congress that the decision of the commission against this claim was not just. He explained that the government had allowed them five millions on their claim, which was fourteen millions, and that the bill recently passed gave them a hundred thousand dollars after investigation.

Mr. HENDRICKS advocated the bill. He said that the contractors by reason of delay on the part of the government in furnishing specifications, &c., had been subjected to great losses from the rise in gold, and consequenly in material.

Mr. HOWE, (rep.) of Wis., offered an amendment forbidding such reference of any claim by Secor & Co., of the Atlantic Ironworks, and others named.

Mr. HENDRICKS moved to amend the amendment by adding the words "upon any vessel upon which an allowance was made by the Board organized under the act of March 2, 1867."

After further debate, during which Mr. CRAGIN, (rep.) of N. H., urged the propriety of the reference to the Court of Claims, saying that the present claims are on account of vessels other than those on which the former allowance was made, and that they are equally just.

Mr. HENDRICK'S amendment to the amendment was adopted—23 to 19; and the amendment was adopted as amended.

The bill was then passed—24 to 17.

THE CURRENCY BILL.

The bill supplementary to the act to provide that the national currency be secured by a pledge of United States bonds, and to provide for the circulation thereof, approved June 3, 1864, was taken up. The question was on the amendment of Mr. MORRILL, of Vt., as follows:—

And on the issue of any increase of national circulation, provided in this section, the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized and required to permanently withdraw an equal amount of United States notes.

Mr. MORTON, (rep.) of Ind., gave notice that when in order he will move to add the following:—

And the United States notes so retired shall not be obtained by the sale of bonds, but shall be taken from the funds in the treasury, collected in the ordinary way.

Mr. COLE, (rep.) Cal., addressed the Senate in favor of the proposition of the Committee to make the twenty millions increase. He argued at some length, pointing out the unfair distribution of the currency and urging that well secured paper is as good currency as gold.

Mr. MORRILL, (rep.) of Vt., said if there was a man on this floor that should be a stickler for resumption it was the gentleman from California, insisting that the people of California feel its want more seriously than those of any other section. In his opinion the West has as large a proportion of banking capital now as it had before the war, and money for banking purposes is worth more than then. He argued that one explanation of the greater wealth of the East is, their people work fourteen or fifteen hours a day all the year round and loan their capital at six per cent, while the people of the West work but half the year and but few hours of the day, loaning their money at ten per cent. He closed by insisting that surplus speculation must always tend towards the Atlantic coast, where there is the greatest opportunity for speculation.

Mr. CONKLING, (rep.) of N. Y., opposed the proposition for the twenty million increase. He said he had no apology to offer for the undue proportion of banking facilities enjoyed by New York, and that before the war she had a better system than the present one. The people had a satisfactory system and one completely under their control. But no financial interest in this country came forward more readily during the war than the banking interest of New York, which gave its entire capital and an enormous sum besides. In regard to the twenty millions increase and the proposal to withdraw a corresponding amount of United States notes, he insisted that when there is a surplus in the Treasury it should be devoted to paying off the interest on the public debt, which is running up so high, if it is not required for current expenses; and that the withdrawal of twenty millions of non-interest bearing greenbacks and the issue of bonds bearing six per cent gold interest would be a loss instead of a gain.

Mr. SHERMAN, (rep.) of Ohio, denied that the bill proposed to inflate the currency, and proceeded to point out the unequal distribution of the currency, claiming that during the war the banking circulation could not be taken in the Southwest and the South because of the unsettled condition of the country. He pointed out the formidable opposition certain to result from an attempt to reduce the circulation in the East, where some States have double their share, and that the Southwest and South had never enjoyed the advantage of the banking system, insisting that the proposed increase is absolutely necessary.

Mr. FESSENDEN, (rep.) of Me., said that when three hundred millions had been authorized as the amount of bank circulation it had been his idea that if the system was to remain permanent it must be increased from time to time with the increased business of the country. But it was necessary to set a limit in order to prevent speculation and the postponement of specie payment subsequently. Congress adopted the system of gradual reduction of the national circulation, with a view of resumption so gradual that those engaged in banking could prepare themselves for it when the time arrived. He then pointed to the action of Congress forbidding the further decrease, but for which he said resumption might have been possible in a year or two, when free banking could have been allowed. Everybody had foreseen that the unequal distribution of capital in the States would make trouble, and now that the West and South want more Congress had placed it out of its power to give it to them without an increase in decreasing the amount of the national circulation. The sacrifice was necessary, but it resulted from our mistakes.

Mr. CONKLING asked how, when national bank circulation is legal tender and receivable for dues to the government, we are any nearer to specie payment by replacing with it the greenback circulation, and whether the result would not be an increase of the interest on the public debt.

Mr. FESSENDEN replied that he desired to get rid of the national circulation that is a legal tender and replace it with a circulation that is not. His idea was to reserve a surplus from taxation towards paying off the debt as the only way it can be done. Financial speculators had been endeavoring to find some way of getting rid of the debt besides buying it, but they must be paid some time or other, and the only way to do it was by raising money by taxation, paying something each year and reducing taxation only so far as is consistent with that plan. First the legal tenders should be got out of the way as a nuisance, next the obligations payable in specie. He deprecated legislation to meet any popular outcry, and advocated independent action, predicting that it would meet with popular support.

Mr. MORTON threw the responsibility of the mistaken financial policy upon Congress. He said this bill was the beginning, if adopted, of the financial policy of the country. It was not giving an additional twenty millions, but the commencement of an issue of one hundred millions, which must surely result. United States notes, if taken up, must be replaced by issuing bonds, to which Congress was opposed as replacing a non-interest-bearing with an interest-bearing debt. In regard to Mr. Sherman's proposition for inflation he pointed out that the result would be speculation and consequent increase of the price of everything but labor. Every interest of the country demands stability, but inflation caused two prices for everything—the real price and the speculative price—and as labor cannot be placed in warehouse and held for an enhanced price, the price of labor was the last to be increased. Every other financial scheme but a return to specie payment was a nostrum. It would not "turn up," Micawber style, but they must take some step in that direction. In his opinion the way to do it was to fix some time for the return, and as that time approached the premium on gold would gradually decrease, and finally, the paper being as good as gold, the specie would not be wanted. He repudiated the idea that withdrawing the United States notes will promote a speedy return. If it was forced it would be by a panic and a crash. In contemplation of law legal tender was at par, even if worth but six cents on the dollar; therefore, it measured the premium on gold. No return of specie payments could be had without keeping the promise made by the government and paying the greenbacks in gold. Where was the bank that could pay in gold when it is based on bonds worth but seventy cents on the dollar? He asked how the withdrawal of greenbacks could give value to other stocks that are now thirty cents under par with gold. They could return to specie payment in no such quick way. Legal tender notes were overdue government paper.

Mr. HENDERSON, (rep.) of Mo., asked why not buy them up now at seventy cents?

Mr. MORTON replied that it would be dishonorable.

Mr. HENDERSON inquired if the Senator thought it any less dishonorable to sell gold at a premium?

Mr. MORTON said the case was very different, but that he was opposed to that also. He proceeded to say he did not believe more than one hundred and fifty millions would be necessary to carry on the work of redemption. An able writer on the subject had expressed the opinion that no bank ever failed that kept one dollar of specie for three of circulation. After resumption less gold would be required in circulation than before the war. A merchant could carry conveniently ten thousand dollars on his person with perfect safety when visiting the large cities to purchase goods, while before the war Western bank bills had to be exchanged into gold for that purpose at a premium, thus creating a demand for gold.

Mr. FESSENDEN asked where the gold for resumption was to come from?

Mr. MORTON replied from the same sources from which we have been getting it.

Mr. FESSENDEN inquired whether the Senator supposed enough was to be obtained after meeting all our expenses?

Mr. MORTON said by reserving the gold in the Treasury and not selling it. Enough gold had been sold to enable us to resume before 1871.

Mr. SHERMAN reminded the Senator that a large part of the interest heretofore has been paid in paper, and that in future gold will be required.

Mr. MORTON was of the opinion that the gold could be acquired without trouble. By reserving it for three years there would be enough gold to begin, and when the premium had got down to five or ten per cent, as it would before then, we could raise it on our five-twenty bonds at par, instead of converting greenbacks worth seventy cents on the dollar into gold interest-bearing bonds. If any small deficit existed at that time it could readily be supplied. Again, the circulation of the country controlled its credit. For instance, railroad stocks that were at par in gold before the war were now at par in legal tender, seventy cents to the dollar. The business of the country was done on that basis. He was not in favor of inflation. The day that resumption commenced the volume of gold and silver would be added to the circulation so that expansion would go on correspondingly with contraction. He wanted no panic or concussion. The country withdrew from specie payment through the channel of legal tender notes. It must return by the same channel, and not through that of bank circulation.

During the Senator's remarks the Twenty Per Cent Increase bill came over from the House and was referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. MORTON continued. He said gold was still the standard of value, legal tenders being but the standard of prices, which it must remain until it was brought to the standard of gold. The present bill seemed like a dodge without conferring any real benefit.

Mr. FESSENDEN asked how gold could be got for this purpose if the government continued to pay its debts? He had no objections to a return to specie payment in 1871, but thought the only way to do it was by yearly saving a surplus from taxation. Gold and silver replaced paper only by the gradual withdrawal of the latter in the natural course of business. He said the Senator's system would let high prices go on until 1871. If no contraction took place specie payment would be no nearer than now. Resumption could not take place by act of Congress. They could not return to their halcyon state without doing something to bring it about.

Mr. CORBETT, (rep.) of Oregon, advocated either increased taxation or a large loan from abroad to enable an immediate return to specie payment.

Mr. CAMERON, (rep.) of Pa., moved to lay the bill on the table, saying the subject was one the discussion of which would never get through. He desired to defer all such subjects until after the election, when we will have a republican President.

The motion was rejected by the following vote:—

YEAS—Messrs. Buckalew, Cameron, Chandler, Conkling, Corbett, Frelinghuysen, Hendricks, Howe, Morton, Patterson of Tenn., Sprague, Trumbull, Vickers and Yates—14.

NAYS—Messrs. Cattell, Cole, Davis, Doolittle, Drake, Fessenden, Fowler, Harlan, Henderson, Morrill of Vt., Morgan, Nye, Patterson of N. H., Pomeroy, Ramsey, Ross, Sherman, Sumner, Tipton, Van Winkle, Wade, Willey, Williams and Wilson—24.

A vote was urged on Mr. Morrill's amendment.

Mr. CHANDLER took the floor and denied that the twenty million increase was any inflation of the currency. He said that the three States of Wisconsin, Michigan and Iowa, for example, with but three million eight hundred thousand bank circulation, required fifteen millions to move their products, and therefore had to borrow the balance from New England, which for its population had double its share. He denounced the first section of the bill, and said it should be called "a bill to allow banks in New York, Philadelphia and Boston to swindle the country."

Mr. ANTHONY, (rep.) of R. I., reminded the Senator that business, not population, should guide the disposition of circulation.

At five o'clock Mr. HENDRICKS moved to adjourn.

RECEPTION TO THE CHINESE EMBASSY.

Mr. SUMNER, (rep.) of Mass., obtained leave to introduce a resolution inviting Mr. Burlingame and his Chinese associates to visit the Senate on Wednesday next, at one o'clock, and appointing a committee of three to introduce them. He cited from the Senate journals as a precedent the case of the reception of Kossuth by the Senate on January 8, 1852.

Mr. BUCKALEW, (dem.), of Pa., opposed the resolution, saying it was prompted more by natural curiosity than anything else.

The resolution was adopted.

Mr. SHERMAN then called the yeas and nays on the motion to adjourn and it was rejected—17 to 25.

THE CURRENCY BILL AGAIN.

Mr. Morrill's amendment was rejected by the following vote.

YEAS—Messrs. Anthony, Conness, Corbett, Cragin, Fessenden, Harlan, Morgan, Morrill of Me., Morrill of Vt., Morton, Nye, Patterson of N. H., Van Winkle, Vickers, Willey and Wilson—16.

NAYS—Messrs. Buckalew, Cameron, Cattell, Chandler, Cole, Conkling, Davis, Drake, Fowler, Frelinghuysen, Henderson, Hendricks, Howe, McCreery, Patterson of Tenn., Pomeroy, Ramsey, Ross, Sherman, Sprague, Stewart, Sumner, Tipton, Trumbull, Wade, Williams and Yates—27.

Mr. DAVIS, (dem.) of Ky., offered the following as a substitute for the section by inserting

That there shall be withdrawn by the Comptroller of the Currency from the banks of any State or Territory that may have them in excess circulating notes upon the principle of their distribution, as regulated by the same rules adopted by the Treasury Department. The circulation so withdrawn shall be distributed by the Comptroller of the Currency among the national banks in such States and Territories as may have less than their proper proportion of circulating notes.

Mr. DAVIS was about to address the Senate, but yielded to a motion to adjourn, which prevailed by a vote of twenty-four to sixteen, and at half-past five o'clock the Senate adjourned.

REDEMPTION OF COMPOUND INTEREST NOTES.

Mr. Cattell's bill, introduced Saturday, provides that, for the purpose of redeeming and retiring the remainder of the compound interest notes outstanding, the Secretary of the Treasury shall issue an additional amount of temporary loan certificates, not exceeding $25,000,000; said certificates to bear interest at the rate of three per cent per annum, principal and interest payable in lawful money, on demand, and to be similar in all respects to the certificates authorized by the act of March 2, 1867, to provide for the payment of compound interest notes; and the said certificates may constitute and be held by any national bank, holding or owning the same, as a part of the reserve, in accordance with the provisions of the act just mentioned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WASHINGTON, June 15, 1868.

BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS INTRODUCED FOR REFERENCE.

The House met at twelve o'clock, and after the reading of the journal proceeded to the call of States for bills and joint resolutions for reference only. Under the call bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read twice and referred to appropriate committees.

By Mr. CHURCHILL, (rep.) of N. Y.—To define felonies and misdemeanors and to regulate peremptory challenges in the United States courts.

By Mr. KOONTZ, (rep.) of Pa.—Amendatory of the Homestead law.

By Mr. MEYERS, (rep.) of Pa.—In further addition to the act to promote the progress of the useful arts.

By Mr. THOMAS, (rep.) of Md.—Amendatory of the act of the 3d of March, 1863, relating to habeas corpus and regulating judicial proceedings.

By Mr. ADAMS, (dem.) of Ky.—Amendatory of the act of March 16, 1868, to facilitate the settlement of paymasters' accounts.

By Mr. STOKES, (rep.) of Tenn.—For the division of the State of Texas and the admission thereof into the Union.

By Mr. JULIAN, (rep.) of Ind.—To aid in ascertaining the value of certain public lands.

By Mr. PAINE, (rep.) of Wis.—To authorize the Secretary of War to deliver certain ordnance to the States of Arkansas, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Florida, for the use of the militia, or the discontinuance of the military governments therein.

By Mr. MILLER, (rep.) of Pa.—A resolution instructing the Committee on Roads and Canals to inquire into and report whether passengers from the North and West are delayed at Baltimore in being conveyed over that branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad between Baltimore and Washington, and if so the cause of such delay and what legislation is necessary to prevent such detriment in travel to the metropolis of the nation. Also to inquire and report whether the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company are exacting and receiving from through passengers a greater sum than they are by existing laws allowed to exact.

By Mr. COBB, (rep.) of N. J.—For the relief of certain honorably discharged soldiers.

By Mr. PRUYN, (dem.) of N. Y.—For the relief of John A. Dix, Richard M. Blatchford and George Opdyke, of New York. Mr. Pruyn explained that the necessity for the bill arose out of the expenditure by them of the two million dollars placed in their hands to secure communication between New York and Washington, at the opening of the war. It simply directs that the proper credits be allowed.

By Mr. CHURCHILL—Concerning the naturalization of aliens.

ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION TO GOVERNMENT EMPLOYES.

The call of States being concluded, the business next in order in the morning hour was the call of States for resolutions. The joint resolution introduced last Monday by Mr. Washburn (rep.) of Ind., to allow an additional compensation of twenty per cent to the civil employés of the government at Washington came up first under this call.

Mr. FARNSWORTH, (rep.) of Ill., asked Mr. Washburn to withdraw the demand for the previous question, that he might offer an amendment to include persons employed in the government gardens.

Mr. WASHBURN declined, and the previous question was seconded—62 to 55.

Mr. MULLINS, (rep.) of Tenn., moved to lay the joint resolution on the table. Negatived—yeas 54, nays 74.

The bill was then passed—yeas 71, nays 58. The announcement of the vote was applauded in the galleries, which had been crowded with persons specially interested in the result.

THE WHISKEY AND TOBACCO TAX.

Mr. SHANKS (rep.) of Ind., offered the following resolution and moved the previous question:—

Resolved, That in the judgment of the House it will inflict a serious loss on the national revenues to delay the revision of taxes on distilled spirits and tobacco until the same can be accomplished by a general revision of the entire Internal Revenue system, and the Committee on Ways and Means is hereby instructed to report without delay a separate bill for the revision of taxes on the manufacture and sale of distilled spirits and tobacco.

Mr. SCHENCK, (rep.) of Ohio, expressed the hope that the resolution would not be insisted on.

The SPEAKER stated that debate was not in order.

Mr. SCHENCK declared that the committee could make the revision as soon as it could get through with the ordinary bill.

The previous question was seconded—62 to 53.

Mr. PILE, (rep.) of Mo., moved to lay the resolution on the table.

The vote was taken by yeas and nays and resulted yeas 60, nays 79. So the House refused to lay the resolution on the table.

Mr. SCHENCK moved to reconsider the vote seconding the previous question. He desired to know whether the House would, before disposing of the question, refuse to hear the nine gentlemen who had been appointed a Committee on Ways and Means. (Loud calls to order.)

The SPEAKER interrupted Mr. Schenck and announced that he was not in order.

Mr. SCHENCK (amid much uproar and excitement)—I know I am not. I only want to say this because we are choked down without the opportunity to say a word in explanation.

Mr. WASHBURNE, (rep.) of Ill.—And I want to call the attention of the country to the fact that we have just voted a million dollars in extra pay to the government clerks in Washington; and I am, therefore, opposed to continuing the session to put additional taxes on the people to pay this. (Confusion and excitement.)

Mr. MAYNARD, (rep.) of Tenn., moved to reconsider the vote refusing to lay the resolution on the table, and he proposed to discuss that question.

The SPEAKER informed him that the motion was undebatable.

Mr. WASHBURNE moved to lay the motion to reconsider on the table.

The question was taken by yeas and nays, and resulted as follows—yeas 71, nays 62. So the motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Mr. SCHENCK remarked that his motion to reconsider the vote seconding the previous question was in order that he might make an explanation.

Mr. MAYNARD moved at half-past one o'clock that the House adjourn.

Mr. WASHBURNE—Does that motion come from the Committee of Ways and Means?

Mr. MAYNARD—Yes, and I give notice that all that the Committee of Ways and Means wants is to be heard on this question. (Calls to order.)

The SPEAKER called Mr. Maynard to order and informed him that if he persisted in speaking when no debate was in order he would present the case to the House.

Mr. FARNSWORTH—I ask the unanimous consent of the House that the Committee of Ways and Means may be heard for five or ten minutes.

Mr. HARDING, (rep.) of Ill.—I object.

Mr. SCHENCK—I ask the yeas and nays on the motion to adjourn. If the House adjourns, the Committee of Ways and Means being refused any opportunity of explanation on this floor in reference to the condition of the bill and how speedily we may have action upon it, may be able to reach the country between now and to-morrow through the public press.

The question was taken and the House refused to adjourn—yeas 20, nays 104.

Mr. PILE asked unanimous consent that the chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means be allowed fifteen minutes for an explanation.

Mr. BUTLER—Yes, provided somebody be allowed to answer him.

Mr. BENJAMIN, (rep.) of Mo.—I object.

The question being on Mr. Schenck's motion to reconsider the vote seconding the previous question, Mr. STEVENS, (rep.) of Pa., moved to lay the motion on the table.

Agreed to—yeas 63, nays 52.

Mr. SCHOFIELD, (rep.) of Pa., moved to suspend the rules so as to allow the Committee on Ways and Means half an hour to speak on the question and the opponents another half hour. Agreed to.

Mr. SCHENCK—Mr. Speaker, after the decided vote which was given the other day when an attempt was made to resist going into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union to consider this bill at all, I had supposed we had passed the point of danger and had reached that view and condition of the subject that the House, or at least all on this side of the House, would renew endeavors to push the bill through, and perfect it in such a manner as to be able at the earliest possible day to send it to the Senate. I have looked at that vote, and find in it that which in part surprises me, and that which in part does not surprise me. At that time the House decided to go on with the bill by a vote of 82 against 57. Seventy-five of the 82 were republicans, and of the 57 nearly one-half were democrats, and nearly every democrat, with the exception of the two gentlemen on the Committee of Ways and Means (Messrs. Niblack and Brooks) voted against going on with this business. I can understand that, because the gentlemen have not the responsibility which I had supposed the republican members of the House felt in the legislation in which we are engaged. Gentlemen of the republican party will say, however, that their object in this movement is not to shirk the responsibility, but to reach such a condition of things as to meet the more trying demands of the country—namely, to legislate in reference to distilled spirits and tobacco, and to leave anything which concerned other matters connected with the revenue to await further legislation. The first reply I have to make to that in behalf of the Committee of Ways and Means is this:—We have sat, I need not say how laboriously, more than five months preparing this bill. We have had before us hundreds and thousands of persons, representing all the various interests of the country, in reference to these and other subjects. We have attempted to present a bill which should be an entirety; a bill which should cover the whole ground, and a bill which considers all the subject of taxation. It is proposed now to break the entirety of this bill and to confine the attention of Congress to legislate only upon the subjects of distilled spirits and tobacco. Why is that motion made? We have passed, of the bill before us, through 176 pages, and there remains only a little more than the same number of pages. The portion remaining is almost entirely made up of these subjects—of tobacco and distilled spirits—and the fact is, as I feel to express to the House, that this very morning, having taken up the bill at the point at which it was left by the House last Saturday, I find that the next subject on the bill is lotteries. We did not suppose that so far as lotteries and theatres are concerned there is really a disposition to go on and accord with the committee in their proposition; that from these things a little more revenue might be raised. Yet these are to be cut off by this proposition. We come next to mineral oil. After a full discussion of that subject and after having all the interests connected with it, which were woke up by the publication of the bill, the committee had come to the conclusion to move in the House to strike out all the sections in the bill in reference to mineral oil, except the 132d section, which provides against explosive compounds, and to leave the mineral oil among the general manufactures of the country relating to useful arts. That would have disposed of fourteen more pages of the bill—less than one-half the bill in the number of pages. The remaining one-half of the bill, with the exception of incomes and legacies, where very little changes are made from the present law, and no changes save such as have been presented by members of the House, and in which there will be an easy and general concurrence, is made up of those two subjects of tobacco and distilled spirits. Just then, when the House has reached those subjects—just when we stand before the country ready to take up those matters and dispose of them, having completed the rest of our work, we find this exhibition of opposition made—made with the concurrence, I admit, of nearly the united democratic party, but made also, to our surprise, with the concurrence of about one-third, and a little more, of gentlemen on this side of the House with whom we are accustomed to act. Now, sir, it must be obvious that there is some reason underneath all this which the committee cannot comprehend. What is it, gentlemen? I think, in good faith I am bound to believe, that a bill may be brought in relating to the subject of tobacco and distilled spirits, short, brief and covering all the ground necessary on these subjects, and may be passed through the House and Senate, so that we may speedily get home. Now I undertake to say, in the first place, that a very large proportion of the bill in reference to those subjects is made up of various details in regard to the mode of collecting the taxes and in reference to the mode of prosecuting frauds, which is a necessary part of the bill, and that if we were to report a bill on the subject we should have to retain generally these features, whether the tax upon whiskey be put up or put down; and I have before notified the House that the impression of the majority of the Committee of Ways and Means is that the tax ought to be considerably reduced. In either case, however, we should have to retain pretty much all the provisions contained in the present bill, because we have not only undertaken reform in reference to the modes and possibilities of collecting the tax on these articles, but we have gone into the whole administrative department relating to the internal revenue, with a view of simplifying it on the one hand and of making it more efficient on the other, but would not give you one snap of my finger scarcely for all that is in the bill. In reference to distilled spirits and tobacco, however valuable, I think that matter is worthless, unless you connect with it certain administrative sections running through all the bill and which we intended to make possible the collection of such a tax as you may impose. Take the matter of revenue stamps for instance. We have the utmost confidence in the integrity and honesty of the present Commissioner of Internal Revenue, however gentlemen may differ in opinion in regard to his decision of character and his energy, and as to whether he has been sharp enough in defending himself against the influences of a political character in one direction, which prevents his usefulness, or against the frauds which were practised in another direction. But while we had that confidence in him, let me say to the House and to the country that, among other things in the present law, we find there was no check whatever on the subject of issuing revenue or other stamps, and that, while the Commissioner was issuing three or four or five millions of stamps each year, to be put upon the market and the country through official channels for the use of the government, he might, if he had been so disposed, have put one, two or three millions more in the market on his own account and pocketed the proceeds himself. We have attempted to remedy all this and to require that all the stamps shall be manufactured under the direction of the department having relation to devices and plans to be furnished by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, and to be issued and charged as money to him and through him to all the officers of the law. But I give this only as an illustration. All through the law there are, as we confidently believe, material reforms made to what we have had, in good part, the assent of the House already given, and which are essentially necessary, if you are going to collect your taxes even on distilled spirits or tobacco. A little while ago, within a few days past, I was glad to feel myself sustained not only by the vote taken in the House, but by an expression of harmony with that vote by members around me and including some who are now voting to give the subject the go by. What has influenced them? I speak with the utmost respect when I say that Senators have been very busy in representing to the members of the House that if the bill be passed as an entirety, revising the whole Revenue law, and if it goes to them in that way, they cannot afford to take the responsibility of cutting it down to a part of the bill upon particular subjects, but that they must go through the whole of it, and that that will keep the House and Senate here perhaps until August. I am not myself going to hesitate with reference to the opinion of Senators or of the Senate, I will endeavor, as a member of this House, to do what is right to be done in reference to the revision of the taxes, and will let the Senate take the responsibility of doing what is right. But I say that after this bill has been matured—first by the Committee of Ways and Means, then subjected to the criticism of all parties interested in its provisions who have come before us since the bill was put in print and sent to the country—and after the bill had come before the House and been disposed of there is no reason why the labors of the Senate should be so long and exhausting upon their time and patience. Now, one word which I am anxious shall go before the country in behalf of the Committee of Ways and Means. In my fourteen years' service in Congress I have never known a committee (and I wish to be understood as speaking for other gentlemen and not for myself) which labored so continuously, so constantly, in season and out of season, by night and by day, meeting every day for the past four or five months, with not a half dozen days excepted, as the Committee of Ways and Means, and the bill presented to this House is the embodiment of all that labor. Now while this impeachment trial was going on and while gentlemen around me, dozens of them, spent their time at home with their families and looking after their elections or something else, the Committee of Ways and Means stayed here and worked on. I say this not in an offensive sense. The very gentleman who is made the medium for presenting this and moving the resolution to give the bill the go-by, has been at home looking after his own intetests, and was not here the other day to vote on the question of going on with the bill. I do not know, indeed, how long he has been here since the bill has been under the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union. He can explain that for himself. I mean nothing offensive in the allusion. But I say the opposition here—a great deal of it—comes from gentlemen who have been having days, weeks (perhaps in some instances months) of leisure at their homes with their families and about their private business while we have been working every day and almost every night. I do not say this in praise of the work presented to you. That work may be taken for what it is worth, but I say when we are half way through the work, and more than half through it, it does not look well to have such a resolution offered, for I now proclaim that this is an attempt made to throw us back upon a condition of things where another week or more of the time of the committee must be employed in putting together all the different parts of the bill, in order to collect the tax even on whiskey and tobacco. I want that particular fact specially noted. There are pages of the bill connected with the tax on tobacco, and there are pages of the bill connected with the tax on distilled spirits, and you cannot present anything like a perfect, consistent bill unless section after section is stricken out and rearranged. To do that work will require, in my belief, as long a time as it would take for this House to go through with the pending bill itself in Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union. I give it as not only my opinion, but as the opinion of the Committee of Ways and Means, that it will take as much time to get up a new bill under the instructions of the resolution as it will to go through with the remainder of this bill.

Mr. GARFIELD, (rep.) of Ohio, asked Mr. Schenck whether in his judgment, if the House were to pass the present bill, and if it should be found better ultimately to do what the resolution contemplated, it could not be done more speedily by taking out of the bill the sections referring to the subject of whiskey and tobacco as they should be passed by the House?

Mr. SCHENCK—I think that what I have said leaves that fairly to be inferred. That certainly is my opinion. I say that we cannot get back such a bill as these gentlemen ask for in less time than it would take to go through with the bill as it now stands; and I say that if we are to go to that work we can do it as well after the bill has left the House as we can do it now. It seems, however, that the difficulty is, that Senators have said that they will not take the responsibility of cutting down the bills that may be sent to them, and therefore out of respect to the Senate we must accommodate our views to theirs, and take upon ourselves the labor of presenting half a bill instead of leaving it to the Senate to do so. I do not believe it will take any such time as has been spoken of. How much already has been occupied in this bill? It was interrupted by the Delano and Morgan case, and on the various occasions when reports were made from the Committee of Managers in reference to the witness Wooley, and by questions from the Committee on Appropriations which is now opposing us. Various other matters occupied the time of the House, so that we have not had five full days of work on this bill. I do not think that, fairly counted, we have had four full days, and yet we had gone half through the bill when I predicted that we could go through with the bill in three weeks. Gentlemen said that if that were so they were willing to go on, but that they thought it would take nearly three months. I say now that if we can have a working quorum of the House to go on with the bill we can in all human probability dispose of it in a week. That is a declaration which I want to make in the presence of the country. Again I say if this bill gets the go-by, and if in consequence of the action pursued here we are delayed in any way hereafter, it must be recollected who takes the responsibility. It is the democratic party almost to a man and about one-third of the republican party. I cannot tell what the vote has been to-day. It has not been so strong in this direction. So far as the republicans are concerned, fewer of them have sustained the bill. But the vote the other day was eighty-two in favor of going on with this bill. That number consisted of seventy-five republicans and seven democrats; against going on with the bill there were thirty-four republicans and twenty-three democrats. This was more than two to one of the republicans voting in favor of meeting the demands of the country, which know that they have the responsibility. They were for going on with the work. But a little more than one-third of them, united with nearly the whole of the democrats, declared that they did not wish the House to go on with the work. To-day the proportion is pretty nearly the same, but I wish to be understood that so far as the Committee of Ways and Means are concerned we are sustained by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. Niblack) and by the gentleman from New York (Mr. Brooks)—both democrats. They have sustained us on this subject with their votes, but with those exceptions the undivided democratic party almost goes with a portion of the republican party, and there is no escaping the fact that while a majority of those who feel the responsibility are here, anxious and willing to go on, less than a majority of them are united with the democrats in trying to prevent the House going on with the bill.

Mr. MAYNARD next took the floor and said—Mr. Speaker, I did not desire to obtain the floor, and I obtain it now simply to say that in the statement of the facts relating to the action of the committee as they have been presented by the chairman of the committee he has not done more than justice to the committee; but he has, so far as he himself is concerned, failed by far to do justice to his own labors. Instead of five months, I think the calendar will show that it is nearer seven months. By an assiduity of labor which I have never seen equalled in my experience this bill has been discussed, its provisions examined one by one, and the bill presented to the House as the result of the labor of the committee. I fully concur in what the chairman has stated, that to take out of this bill the two of tobacco and distilled spirits and to introduce them with those provisions of the law which relate to collecting duties upon them, and to adapt them to the present law, will be like putting new cloth into an old garment. It will only operate to make the result worse. It will require an immense amount of labor, and that labor will not accomplish what is hoped and expected, and which I believe can be accomplished by the present bill.

Mr. NIBLACK, (dem.) of Ind. (another member of the Committee of Ways and Means), said—Mr. Speaker, I have been waiting all the while in favor of going on with this bill since the motion to postpone has been submitted. I have done so, in the first place because I am a member of the Committee of Ways and Means who reported the bill, and because I believe it is proper in me to sustain the committee in matters of this character; and I have done so for the additional reason that I think there is much legislation needed on the subject of internal revenue taxes, some of which may be at least accomplished by passing this bill. But I am more particularly anxious that this proposition to postpone it now shall not succeed for the reason that I think it will result in a positive loss of time to the House and to Congress, as has been well said by the chairman. We cannot mature a new bill under perhaps a week to meet the requirements of the resolution now pending. If we should go on with the consideration of the present bill we think that within that time we should have disposed of it in the House, and therefore we would reach the question about the time that it will take to complete this new bill, as instructed by the resolution. It may be that the Senate, when this bill shall reach it, if it ever shall, may decide to take out so much of it as relates to whiskey and tobacco, and may send it back to us in that amended form. If so, the responsibility will be on the Senate, and perhaps it will be a matter of economy in time to do so; but for the House to adopt that course, and to attempt now to separate the sections and only to pass a portion of the bill, would, I think, result in an absolute loss of time. I am, therefore, earnestly opposed to the proposition to postpone.

Mr. SCHENCK, referring to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. Shanks), stated that he had only spoken of him by way of illustration, and that if he was mistaken in what he had said he would withdraw it; but he thought that the gentleman had got an indefinite leave of absence on the 10th or 15th of May, and had only returned to the House within the last two or three days. The gentleman could correct him in that if he was wrong.

The half hour which was allowed to the Committee of Ways and Means having expired, the next half hour belonged to the supporters of the resolution.

Mr. SHANKS, who introduced it, first took the floor. He said—I do not feel, Mr. Speaker, that the question of my leave of absence is a subject for consideration under this resolution. While I have the highest regard for the opinions of the chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, I must say that it is the legitimate duty of every member on the floor to speak to the business and not to the individual. I know it is an easy thing to say that we will look to country and hold men responsible to the country for what they do. I am responsible to the country for what I do. I ask no man to hold me up before the country. I stand before my people and speak for them. I have been with my people, and I now say to you and to this House in all kindness that if the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. Schenck) had been among his people I think he would have learned something better than to stand here and say to me what he has said on this matter, that I introduced the resolution for the purpose of hurting the feelings, assailing the judgment or affecting the integrity of any man or set of men. I have the highest regard for the opinion of the Committee of Ways and Means. There is no member who sustains a committee with more purpose and zeal than I do; but if it is true that the Committee of Ways and Means has spent so much time and exercised so much care and deliberation in determining the correctness and

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