





FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 1836.

A message was received from the President of the United States, announcing his approval of the bill to regulate the public deposits.

Mr. CLAY remarked that the message just communicated by the President announced the gratifying fact that he had approved the deposit bill. He (Mr. C.) was extremely glad of it, and it afforded ground for great rejoicing; but he could not refrain from observing that the same fact was announced this morning in the Globe, in an editorial article which bore an authorized character; and that it was not according to established usage, nor respectful towards Congress, that his approval of a bill passed by that body should be communicated to the editor of a newspaper prior to the communication of the fact to that House in which the bill had originated.

TEXAS.

The following message was also received from the President of the United States:

To the Senate of the United States:

In compliance with a resolution of the Senate of the 18th instant, I transmit a Report from the Secretary of State, with the papers therewith presented. Not having accurate and detailed information of the civil, military, and political condition of Texas, I have deemed it expedient to take the necessary measures, now in progress, to procure it, before deciding upon the course to be pursued in relation to the newly declared Government.

ANDREW JACKSON.

WASHINGTON, 23d JUNE, 1836.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, Washington, 23d June, 1836.

To the President of the United States:

The Secretary of State, to whom was referred a resolution of the Senate of the 18th instant, requesting the President to communicate to the Senate any information in his possession not inconsistent with the public interest touching the political condition of Texas—the organization of its Government, and its capacity to maintain independence; and also, any correspondence which may have taken place between the Executive of the United States and the Government of Texas, and the copies of papers addressed to, and left at, the Department of State by persons claiming to be agents of the Republic of Texas; being all the information and correspondence called for by the resolution, and which remain for further consideration, and such direction as the President shall hereafter give.

All which is respectfully presented.

JOHN FORSYTH.

The message having been read, Mr. CLAY rose, and said it did not appear to him to be necessary that a reference should be made of this message, as the President himself states that he deems it requisite that he should have further information of the facts before he determines on the propriety of recognizing the independence of Texas. The Committee on Foreign Relations in their report had certainly thrown out no reflection on the President as having been tardy in his movements, but had concluded that the conclusion that it would be proper to recognize the independence of Texas, and to send an agent to Santa Ana, was a Governmental act, and not a personal one. As the President had signified a desire to wait for further information before he acts, there would probably be no necessity to move to refer these papers to the Committee on Foreign Relations. He moved to lay the message on the table, and to print.

Mr. PRESTON stated that the only fact necessary to be established was, that the war in Texas had terminated; and that was proved by the documents accompanying the message. He would, however, concur in the motion of the Senator from Kentucky, merely reserving to himself the privilege to move further in the subject, if, on reflection, he should feel convinced that such course was advisable. The present inclination of his mind was to move to refer the resolution of the Committee on Foreign Relations back to that committee, with instructions to report a resolution to recognize the independence of Texas.

Mr. CLAY said that if it should be considered by the Senate from South Carolina (or any other Senator) advisable to adopt a resolution as he had suggested, he might do so when the resolution of the Committee on Foreign Affairs came to be acted on, and that resolution was the special order for yesterday. He did not concur in the opinion expressed by the Senator, that the sole fact to be regarded in acting on this subject, was that of the termination of the war. There was also another fact, and that was, that concerning which he presumed the President was now seeking information, and this was—whether there is, in fact, a government existing in full and successful operation, so as to justify the establishment of intercourse and relations of amity. Whenever the motion to lay the message on the table, and print it, was adopted, he would move to make the resolution reported by the Committee on Foreign Relations the special order for a day next week.

The message was then laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

On motion of Mr. CLAY, the resolution reported by the Committee on Foreign Relations was then postponed, and made the special order for Wednesday next.

Mr. PRESTON presented a memorial from certain citizens of Louisiana, praying for the recognition of the independence of Texas; which was laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. TALLMADGE, from the Committee on Pensions, reported a bill from the House of Representatives for the relief of Daniel Cobb, without amendment.

Mr. LINN, from the same committee, reported a bill from the House for the relief of Henry Maggart, and a bill for the relief of Mr. Scott, without amendment, recommending their passage.

Mr. TOMLINSON, from the same committee, reported a bill for the relief of John Dow, and a bill for the relief of Mary Lampkin, without amendment, recommending their passage.

Mr. TOMLINSON, from the same committee, reported bills for the relief of Catherine A. Collier and for the relief of Ephraim H. Gilbert, with amendments.

On motion of Mr. TOMLINSON, it was ordered, That the daily hour to which the Senate shall adjourn shall be ten o'clock during the residue of the session.

Mr. TOMLINSON stated that his reason for making the motion was to have the pension bills from the House taken up and acted on.

Mr. TOMLINSON gave notice that he should tomorrow morning move the Senate to proceed to the consideration of the pension bills from the House.

POST OFFICES AND POST ROADS.

On motion of Mr. EWING, of Ohio, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill to establish certain post offices and post roads, and to discontinue others.

On motion of Mr. EWING, the Senate took up a bill from the House for the relief of the executor of Richard W. Meade; which was considered and discussed, and the yeas and nays were demanded by Mr. WRIGHT.

Mr. HUBBARD moved an amendment providing for a reference of the claim to certain officers of the Government to report on the subject at the next session. The other parts of the bill were struck out.

The demand of the yeas and nays was withdrawn, and the bill was ordered to be engrossed.

Mr. KING, of Alabama, moved the Senate to take up the bill for the relief of Chas. J. Callett—yeas 15, nays 11.

The bill was amended, on motion of Mr. CALHOUN, so as to refer the bill to the officers of the Treasury, to report on the principle.

The bill was then ordered to be engrossed, and read a third time.

NAVY.

On motion of Mr. SOUTHWARD, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill for the organization of the Navy.

On motion of Mr. SOUTHWARD, the bill was amended by striking out the words "for rear admirals."

Mr. SOUTHWARD moved to strike out "nine," before commodores, and insert "thirteen."

Mr. CUTHBERT moved to divide the question, but it was decided by the Chair to be out of order.

The question on the motion of Mr. SOUTHWARD was then decided in the negative.

Mr. CUTHBERT then moved to strike out the whole of the commodores, so as to destroy that rank.

Mr. SOUTHWARD asked for the yeas and nays; which were ordered.

Mr. WEBSTER expressed a wish to retain the rear admirals and strike out the commodores. He would move, when out of committee, to restore the rear admirals, and would now vote against the commodores.

Mr. CUTHBERT moved to amend the bill by striking out the grade of second lieutenant; which was agreed to. Mr. WEBSTER moved to increase the number of "first" lieutenants from 250 to 350, so as to include the number which had been included under the head of "second" lieutenants; which was agreed to.

The bill was then reported to the Senate, and the amendments were concurred in, except that in relation to rear admirals.

On motion of Mr. WEBSTER, the bill was so amended as to make one admiral, one vice admiral, and three rear admirals—yeas 15, nays 10.

The bill was then ordered to be engrossed, and read a third time.

The following bills were then considered as in Committee of the Whole, and ordered to a third reading:

A bill for the relief of the legal representatives of David Caldwell.

A bill for the relief of Thomas Dixon & Co., of New York.

A bill for the relief of Robert McJimsey.

A bill for the relief of John Fraser & Co., of Charleston, S. C.

A bill for the relief of John F. Lewis.

A bill for the relief of James Robertson, of S. Carolina.

The Senate then proceeded to the consideration of executive business; and, after some time spent in secret session,

The Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY'S EVENING SESSION (JUNE 23).

The House resumed business at four o'clock.

On motion of Mr. HAYNES, Resolved, That the Committee of Claims be instructed to report on the expediency of making compensation to Col. John McKinney, for the expenses he incurred in securing a debt due by G. W. Denton to the Treasury of the United States.

On motion of Mr. HOPKINS, Resolved, That the Committee on Revolutionary Claims be instructed to inquire into the expediency of paying to the heirs of General Watkins, of the Virginia contingent line, the seven years' half pay (with interest) promised by law to the widows and children of those officers of the said line who died in the service of the revolutionary war.

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IMPROVEMENT OF HARBORS.

The House then went again into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, (Mr. LINCOLN in the chair,) and the bill making appropriations for certain harbors for the year 1836.

The motion of Mr. BELL to strike out the enacting clause still pending.

Mr. BELL went at great length into an examination of the measures of the Government, and the character of the party in power. He commented upon the peculiar character of the Committee of Ways and Means, which from the first he knew to have been composed of gentlemen from the seaboard mostly, favorable to the increase of expenditures with a view to exhaust the Treasury. The Rules of the House, he said, had been broken and trampled upon during the session, in an extraordinary manner, though he did not mean to charge the Speaker with being particularly at fault.

He then proceeded to expatiate on the influence of the majority, which, under party and local influences, were determined to carry their measure; and he explained the chair could be wholly above those influences.

He commented upon several attacks upon him from the Globe and other papers, and replied to the remarks of the official paper upon some remarks of his in relation to the conduct of the Government, and that paper had called a confession that the minority were not factious, and were determined to obstruct the business of the House. He explained that what he said would be concurred in by judicious men of all parties; that he merely implored the majority to consider that, when a minority felt themselves oppressed, when they saw the most arbitrary and unusual measures adopted to suppress their action in the House; when they found that the most obvious and palpable wrongs were being done to their mouths were stopped, so that they could not even utter their objections, they would necessarily grow restless, and would attempt to do, out of order, what they were denied the right to do in regular order.

He then proceeded to expatiate upon the principles of the party, previously to coming into power, in contrast with their practices since they obtained it; and he dwelt especially upon the declarations that the patronage of office should be bestowed upon the basis of merit, and freedom of elections; and that reform should be made in public abuses, and retrenchment in public expenditures.

These, he said, were the watch-words of the party before the election of their chief, and were the principles upon which they came into office; but they had been all abandoned. The patronage of office had never, since the foundation of the Government, been so largely bestowed, and so powerfully to operate upon elections. The grossest abuses existed in the administration of the departments; and the expenses of the Government had increased enormously. The doctrine of the Administration party in New York, that the offices of the country belong as prizes and spoils to the party in power, Mr. B. reprobated in the strongest terms. To whatever party the Government should be committed he did not mean to charge any in particular, such a principle was dangerous to the institutions, and subversive of the interests of the nation; and he went on to show the extension of this odious principle of the New York party into other States and into the Federal Government. He spoke of the deposit bill, and the distribution of the surplus revenue, which he opposed, and the vote for it of the party in power in the House, and said, if it was a bad measure, if it was so injurious as to justify their opposition, they must thank themselves for its passage.

The chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, he said, was mainly answerable for the passage of that bill, for he (Mr. B.) did not think any thing contributed so much to induce the large majority of the House to vote for it, as the zeal and perseverance of that gentleman to procure, by every means in his power, the most extravagant and wasteful appropriations.

Mr. SUTHERLAND earnestly hoped, he said, that gentleman would suffer this bill to be laid aside, and never to be brought up again.

Mr. BELL, in reply to the remarks of the gentleman from Tennessee, said that, when an opportunity would be afforded by another bill.

Mr. MERCER made some remarks on the importance of the bill under consideration, of which he said he had but just been made aware. He had himself been engaged in the peculiar duties of his committee, while the bills now under consideration had been matured by gentlemen in other committees. Two different bills, for the improvement of harbors and rivers, and for the improvement of the coast, were reported by different committees, and he was not ready to vote for this bill, without further examination. He hoped, therefore, that the committee would rise, in order that the subject might be deliberately considered tomorrow.

Mr. SUTHERLAND, in reply, said that the bill contained a number of objections, which he had to the House, and relating exclusively to the improvement of harbors. It had no connexion whatever with a system of internal improvement, and was reported from the Committee on Commerce entirely for the security and advantage of commerce and navigation.

Mr. BELL, not wishing, he said, to delay the action of the committee, or the progress of the bill, withdrew his motion for the present, giving notice that he should renew it in the House.

After some remarks from Messrs. PEYTON, SUTHERLAND, MERCER, PHILLIPS, and JOHNSON, of Louisiana, the committee, without taking any question thereon, and at nine o'clock the House adjourned.

FRIDAY, JUNE 24.

Mr. WHITELEY, from the Committee of Claims, made a report in the case of Wm. Crooks, which concludes with the following resolution, viz:

Resolved, That the petition and papers of James Crooks and Wm. Crooks be referred to the Secretary of the Navy, to ascertain (on giving notice to the said James and William Crooks, or their agents, of the time and place of taking testimony) the value of the cargo of the schooner Nelson, captured by Lieut. Woolsey, on Lake Ontario, on the 5th of June, 1812, at the time of said capture, and the cargo then on board of said vessel, and that he report the same at the next session of Congress.

Mr. W. B. SHEPARD, from the Committee for the District of Columbia, reported a bill for the relief of the District of Columbia, reported the same without amendment.

Mr. SHEPARD remarked, that as there was no necessity for the commitment of this bill, he hoped it would be ordered to a third reading.

After some remarks from Messrs. PIERCE, of New Hampshire, and THOMAS, in opposition to this course,

Mr. BOON moved that the further consideration of the bill be postponed till tomorrow.

Mr. SHEPARD opposed the motion; and, after some further remarks from Messrs. LANE, GARLAND, VIRGINIA, BOULDIN, JENIFER, VANDERPOEL, and HARDIN,

Mr. BOON withdrew his motion to postpone.

Mr. HAYNES moved to commit the bill to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union. Lost.

Mr. GILLETTE renewed the motion to postpone the further consideration of the bill till tomorrow.

The motion was discussed by Messrs. THOMAS, GARLAND, VA. MERCER, JENIFER, PEARCE, of R. I. HOAR, and WM. B. SHEPARD, when the special order was announced.

On motion of Mr. THOMAS, the Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from the further consideration of the Senate bill, disapproving and annulling the act of the Territorial Legislature of Florida, and it was brought into the House, and taken up for consideration.

The bill was read a third time, and passed.

REDUCTION OF DUTIES, &c.

Mr. MCKAY moved the suspension of the Rules for the purpose of enabling him to offer the following resolutions, which were read:

Resolved, That the power of taking money from the People, by laying and collecting duties, imposts, and excises, is one of the most sacred trusts vested in the General Government; that it is enforced solely to enable to command the necessary means to execute the objects for which it was instituted, and that to exact money from the People when not necessary for those objects, or more than is necessary, would be, on the part of the Government, a manifest breach of trust, and to the People unjust and oppressive.

Resolved, That the revenue receivable under the present laws is, and will be more than is required for the fair and legitimate wants of the Government, and that provision ought to be made for its reduction.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Treasury report to this House at the commencement of the next session, what alteration can be made in the existing laws, so as to conform consistently with the principles of the several acts imposing duties upon imports, with a view to reduction.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Treasury also report upon the best mode of diminishing the revenue arising from the new States, without retarding the settlement of the new States, or impairing the credit of the General Government; and generally his views as to the best mode of reducing the revenue to the fair and constitutional wants of the Government.

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