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(By Authority.)

AN ACT

To establish and regulate Ferries.

BE *it enacted by the First and Second Chambers of the City Council of Washington*, That it shall and may be lawful for the Mayor, for the time being, to grant his licence under his hand and seal of the Corporation, attested by the Register, to any inhabitant of the city, to keep a public ferry at any place within the limits and jurisdiction of the same, and from such place to any other place without the said limits and jurisdiction; such licence to continue in force for one year and no longer; and to be renewable annually during the continuance of this act. And if any person after the passing of this act, shall presume to keep a ferry for hire or reward within the limits and jurisdiction aforesaid, without obtaining licence agreeable to this act, such person shall forfeit two hundred dollars for every offence, one half to the use of the informer, and the other half to the use of the Corporation.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the rates of ferriage shall be established as follow, that is to say for any ferry across the Potomac river, for each foot passenger, six cents and a quarter; for each person and horse, eighteen cents and three quarters, for each chaise, sulkey or riding chair, thirty-seven and a half cents, for each coach, coachee, stage, waggon, chariot, pheaton or curricle, or other riding carriage, one hundred cents, and the further sum of twelve and a half cents for each horse more than two, by which such coach coachee, chariot, pheaton, or curricle shall be drawn, for each sled or sleigh, thirty-seven and a half cents, and the further sum of twelve and a half cents for each horse or other beast more than two by which such sled or sleigh shall be drawn; for each four wheeled waggon, cart or other four wheeled carriage of burthen, thirty-seven and a half cents, and the further sum of twelve and a half cents for each horse or other beast more than two by which the same shall be drawn; for each two wheeled cart, dray, or other two wheeled carriage of burthen, eighteen and three-quarter cents, and the further sum of twelve and a half cents for each horse or other beast more than one by which the same shall be drawn, for each sheep or swine, three cents, for horses and neat cattle, other than those in teams, drawing sleds, sleighs, or carriages, or those with riders, six and a quarter cents each, and one person only to each team or drove, shall be allowed to pass free of ferriage, nor shall any thing be demanded for the baggage of passengers. And for any ferry across the Anacostia, only one half of the above rates of ferriage shall be allowed and demanded.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall and may be lawful for the Mayor for the time being, to direct how many and what kind of boats shall be kept and what number of able bodied and skilful hands shall be employed in the boats at every ferry by him licenced, and the same shall be expressed in the licence. And every person keeping a public ferry, shall keep constantly set up in the most public part of his house, a copy of his licence, and of the rates of ferriage allowed by this act, under the penalty of ten dollars for every day, one half for the informer, and the other to the use of the corporation, such copy shall not be set up as required by this act. And if any ferry keeper, licenced as aforesaid, shall ask or receive directly or indirectly, more than the price allowed for ferriage he shall for every demand or receipt forfeit two dollars, one half for the informer, and the other to the use of the corporation, and every person obtaining licence in manner aforesaid, shall enter into bond in the sum of two hundred dollars, payable to the corporation, with two sufficient securities, conditioned that he will faithfully and diligently keep the ferry for which he shall obtain licence, with such boats and hands as the Mayor, granting the licence shall direct, from day light, to day light, from the first November, to the first of March, and from an hour before, to an hour after day light for the residue of the year, & that he will not charge or receive any greater price for ferriage than allowed by this act. And every ferry keeper shall pay to the Register of the city for taking bond and making out his licence, and a fair copy of the rates of ferriage, a fee of two dollars, and also, a tax of five dollars on his licence, for the use of the Corporation, which tax shall be paid over by the Register to the city Treasurer, and the said Register shall keep the bonds, and register all licences granted by virtue of this act.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That this act shall continue in force for the term of five years, and no longer.

ALEX. M'CORMICK,
President pro tempore of the First Chamber, &c.

SAML. HAMILTON,
President of the Second Chamber, &c.

APPROVED,
May 28th. 1806.

ROBERT BRENT, Mayor.
Test,
THOMAS HERTY, Reg.

AN ACT

Extending the time for the Treasurer's collecting taxes by distress and sale.

BE *it enacted by the First and Second Chambers of the City Council of Washington*, That the time by which the Treasurer is obliged to sell the property of persons chargeable with any tax, by the act entituled, "An act supplementary to the act imposing certain taxes, and providing for their collection," be extended for this year only, to the 28th day of May ensuing.

JNO. M'GOWAN,
President pro tempore of the First Chamber, &c.

JNO BECKLEY,
President pro tempore of the Second Chamber, &c.

APPROVED,
May 7th. 1806.

ROBERT BRENT, Mayor.
Test,
THOMAS HERTY, Reg.

AN ACT

Repealing the act authorising the establishment of semi-annual fairs, and the acts supplementary thereto.

BE *it enacted by the First and Second Chambers of the City Council of Washington*, That the act authorising the establishment of semi annual fairs with the acts supplementary thereto, be and the same are hereby repealed.

JNO. DEMPSIE,
President of the First Chamber, &c.

MICHAEL NOURSE,
President pro tempore of the Second Chamber, &c.

APPROVED,
May 26th, 1806.

ROBERT BRENT, Mayor,
Test,
THOMAS HERTY, Reg.

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

APRIL 10, 1806.

DEBATE

On the bill making appropriations for the support of the Navy during the year 1806.

In committee of the whole.

The bill was read by sections.

The chairman having read that part of the bill which makes an appropriation "for repair of vessels, store rent, pay of armourers, freight, *and other contingent expences.*"*

MR. J. RANDOLPH moved to fill the blank with 419,950 dolls.

MR. D. R. WILLIAMS moved to strike out the words "*and other contingent expences.*" He said he made this motion with a view of ascertaining for what objects these contingent expences were intended to provide. He would ask the chairman of the committee of Ways and Means for information on this point. He believed the sum contemplated to be appropriated unnecessarily large.

MR. J. RANDOLPH said the gentleman had asked for information which it was not in his power to give. He was as much in the dark as the gentleman as to the items of contingent expenditure; and he should not have moved to fill this blank with so large a sum, but from the conviction that whether they provided the money or not, it would be spent, and an additional appropriation be made the next session. Mr. R. said he viewed an appropriation bill under present circumstances a mere matter of form; he believed also all the items of appropriation might as well be lumped together, and it might be declared that a million of dollars were appropriated. Had he been governed by his own opinion, instead of the forms which had been observed, he would have been in favor of drafting the bill in this way, for this reason. If the expenditures of the navy exceeded this sum by 600,000 dollars, there was no doubt the next Congress would make good the deficiency without any inquiry. He believed this, as what had taken place once might take place again.

Mr. R. said he had addressed a note to the head of the department, stating that on such a day the committee of Ways and Means wished the appropriation bill to be taken up, and expressing a desire that he would give them information of the items of contingent expenditure, as they considered the sum required unnecessarily large. He had received an answer to this effect—The secretary said he did not think the sum too large, without entering into any explanation—Mr. R. added, gentlemen may fill the blank as they please—it will be no check on the expenditure.

The committtee divided on agreeing to the sum named by Mr. Randolph—Ayes 46—Noes 37.

MR. D. R. WILLIAMS moved to strike out "and other contingent expences." He had before said that he had been impelled to make this motion from a sense of duty. This impression had been strengthened by the statement of the chairman of the committee of Ways and Means. He could not think it proper to make an appropriation to so large an amount, when the proper organ of the House had without success required information from the head of the department, from whom he had only received a mere opinion. He hoped the committee would agree to strike out this general appropriation, that all the items of contingent expenditure might be stated to the House, and thereby form some check on the expenditure.

MR. LEIB said he perceived in another part of the bill other mention made of contingent expences, He would be glad to know what they were. The House ought to know the various items, or otherwise make a general provision for contingent expences, and leave it to the head of the department to apply the money as he pleases.

MR. DANA said the first contingent appropriation was for the navy—the second for the marine corps. If striking out the proposed words would enable the committee to obtain the information sought, he should vote for the motion. He had no objection to voting liberally for a navy; but he thought the legislature ought to be well informed, as they would otherwise scarcely discharge their duty to their constituents.

The motion of *Mr. Williams* to strike out "and other contingent expences," was disagreed to—Ayes 32.

MR. J. RANDOLPH moved to strike out the part of the bill making an appropriation "for completing the marine barracks at the city of Washington."—Mr. R. said this object appeared to require a standing appropriation; and, though the building was finite, the appropriation appeared to be infinite.

Motion agreed to——Ayes 66.

The committee rose and reported the bill. The House having taken the report of the committee into consideration,

MR. D. R. WILLIAMS called for the reading of a document stating the annual expenditures on the navy, by which it appeared that the expenditures had been as follows:

		Dolls. Cts.
For	1798	570,314 24
	1799	2,848,187 26
	1800	3,385,340 48
	1801	2,117,420 74
	1802	946,213 24
	1803	1,107,925 32
	1804	1,246,502 74
	1805	1,409,949 67
	Total,	13,631,853

Mr. D. R. Williams renewed his motion to strike out "and other contingent expences." He thought the House ought, under existing circumstances, to shew a disposition to economize, and to curtail the expences of the navy.——What is the use said Mr. W. of this expenditure? Why, the Constitution is in the mud, and the President on her beam ends! Thirteen millions and a half have been already expended, and it is now proposed to add 411,000 dollars for contingent expences. In making this motion I have no object but to confine the navy department to proper expences—but let them first state what they are.

The Speaker observed that this motion could not be received until the amendments of the committee had been acted upon.

MR. D. R. WILLIAMS moved to strike out "for ordnance 50,000 dollars."*

He did not perceive the use of this appropriation. No gentlemen accustomed to travel, but must have seen the unprotected state of the ordnance—look at the Turk's house, you will there see it lying exposed. To his knowledge it was in many other instances in the same situation.

This motion was lost—Ayes 33.

When the amendment of the committee to fill the blank with 50,000 dollars was agreed to, without a division.

MR. EPPES offered a proviso declaring that a larger sum than 50,000 dollars shall not be expended on the repairs of any one frigate.

MR. J. RANDOLPH. I shall vote against this motion on the same principle that I voted to fill the blank relative to contingent expences with 411,000 dollars. If we cannot restrain the expenditures of the navy department within the sum annually fixed after giving as much as is asked for, is it not the idlest thing to attempt to restrain them by giving less?

The principle on which I voted for filling that blank was this—to give to the navy department what it asks, that if at the end of the year more shall be expended, the blame may fall on the shoulders of the Secretary and not on us. The sum appropriated for contingent expences amounts to 411,000 dollars—this is not the half, but it is more than a third of the whole sum appropriated, and it may be expended on repairs or any other item of contingent expenditure. It is enormous. But withhold the appropriation, and where are you? The expence may be incurred, and the government called on to make good the deficiency; and there the business will end.

With regard to the sum requisite for the repair of a frigate, her situation between this and the next year cannot be foreseen. The Secretary may have estimated 30,000 dollars as sufficient to repair any one frigate as they now stand—but they may be placed in such a condition as to require a much larger sum.

But I am against the amendment said Mr R. not only for these, but for other reasons. I will never consent to legislate in such a way as to make it appear that we did legislate intelligently, when in fact we do not. If I can be satisfied that 50,000 dollars will be sufficient for the repair of a frigate, I may be induced to vote for it. But even this would be unnecessary. For, after all the business must be confided to the head of the department; and he will be a better judge of the sum required for the repair of a vessel than we are. If he cannot be trusted, we ought in my opinion either or refuse the appropriation altogether, to take a very different step from that now proposed. For these reasons I am unwilling to appear to act understandingly on a subjet, which I know nothing about.

MR. EPPES. When I made this motion, it was under the impression that what is correct in private, is also correct in public conduct. We knew that when a vessel owned by a merchant gets in a certain state, it is more adviseable to sell than to repair her. I do not know whether I have fixed the proper sum. All I wish to try is, whether the U. S. are disposed to repair at all events their frigates, whatever their state may be, or limit the sum after expending which they shall be abandoned. I confess, however, that I am not anxious on this point. I merely wish to try the sense of the House.

On agreeing to Mr. Eppes's motion, the House divided—Ayes 38—Noes 57.

MR. D. R. WILLIAMS. The curtailing navy expences may be unpopular, but I conceive it to be right. For that purpose I will renew the motion I offered in committee. I am of opinion that all the expenditures of this department should pass in review before the House. When I first came to Washington, I went to the navy yard. I there saw an elegant building going on. I enquired under what appropriation this was authorised, and was answered under the appropriation for contingent expences. I remarked other expenditures and received the same information. These expenditures may be all proper; but I think that every gentleman on this floor ought to be enabled to tell his constituents how the public money is expended. Talk to them of *contingencies*, and they will understand as little of the term as of land in the moon. Mr. W. concluded by moving to strike out "and other contingent expences," and calling the yeas and nays.

MR. ALEXANDER was against the motion, as an agreement to it would not lead to the obtaining any further information, and as he was convinced it was impossible to specify every item of expenditure.

MR. FISK was of opinion that it would be best to agree to the motion as the means of obtaining a detailed estimate. His confidence in the head of the department was not diminished; but it was their duty to be fully informed on whatever respected the expenditure of public money.

MR. SMILIE said, that no gentleman would censure him for attachment to the navy. He never had been, nor was he now attached to a navy. But the situation in which they were placed was well known. If there was time, he should be glad to have every item of expenditure produced by the proper officer, that they might know how to act. He was fully aware that in the navy department it was more difficult to anticipate the expences than in any other. Though, therefore, he was no friend to a navy, as it had not been thought proper to abandon the establishment, he considered it right to make such grants as were necessary for its support. If it were early in the session, or if he tho't it possible to get the information at this late stage of it, he should vote for calling for it. But as they were reduced to the necessity of saying at once whether they would, or would not support the navy, he should be in favor of making this grant.

MR. ELMER did not see the least good which could result from the motion. If it would prevent an unnecessary expenditure of the public money, he would vote for it. But the nature of the service was such as rendered it impossible to foresee, or provide with precision for expences which might become necessary.

MR. J. RANDOLPH said, it had been stated by the gentleman from Pennsylvania that it was too late to get this information. The gentleman was mistaken. Any information could be had now, which could have been got three months ago. Mr. R. then moved that the further consideration of the subject should be postponed until the next day, that gentleman, who said they wanted information, might obtain it by a vote of the House.

The Speaker pronounced this motion not to be in order, as the clerk had previously commenced the call of the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays having been taken on Mr. D. R. Williams's motion, were—Yeas 25—Noes 86.

MR. D. R. WILLIAMS moved to recommit the bill to a committee of the whole House, with the view of obtaining information from the secretary of the navy before it was definitely acted on.

Motion disagreed to—Ayes 41—Noes 56.

When the bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading without a division.

MR. JACKSON hoped it would not be read a third time until Saturday—that information might be previously obtained from the head of the department. If it should not be then obtained, he should be the foremost in voting for a recommitment.

MR. R. NELSON hoped it would be read to-morrow. The bill had been delayed much longer than was usual, and great inconveniences had been experienced from the delay which had attended it. Should the third reading be delayed till Saturday, it might be late in the session before it was conclusively acted on. The other House might take time to discuss its provisions. As all gentlemen were anxious speedily to close the session he hoped it would be read a third time to morrow. I should coincide, said Mr. N. with the gentleman from Virginia in the course proper to be pursued, if I thought we could by a delay of a few days get any important information. But I have been told, and I cannot doubt it, that it would take an immense length of time for the clerks to make out a complete statement of the contingent expences of the last year. I have been told that it would take months, even with the aid of additional clerks. I have been told so by a gentleman whose veracity I cannot doubt, and whose knowledge on this point must be correct. Putting off then this bill to Saturday cannot be the means of giving us any correct information not already in our possession. If I thought otherwise I would willingly wait till Saturday. But when I reflect on the facts I have stated, and see that it is impossible to get this detailed information in any reasonable time, I think it best, in this instance, to do, as we have done heretofore,—to vote on the information of the head of the department.

MR. J. RANDOLPH said he felt himself called upon to reply to a remark made by the gentleman who had just set down, who had said that from some cause or other this bill had been unusually delayed. He would tell the gentleman one cause of this delay—this very item of appropriation, which the gentleman had just agreed to, was part of the cause. But he wished it at the same time to be distinctly understood that there was no disposition in the committee of Ways and Means to delay this bill. It was long since reported to the House, and he had before called for taking it up. The committee had never received any intimation from the head of the department stating the passage of the bill to be a matter of urgency; which had heretofore been common in case a department required an early appropriation of money. Had then the committee of Ways and Means any right to suppose, after having voted 600,000 in addition to the appropriation for the last

* The item for contingent expences of the navy, comprises commissions to agents in foreign countries and in the U. S.—officers' travelling expences—expence of conveying seamen from one port to another—as for instance where seamen are entered in Philadelphia or Baltimore to join a vessel fitting out at Washington—the expence of nautical instruments—such as compasses, quadrants, spy glasses, &c. charts—books—models—drawings—signals—lanthorns, oil—candles—clamps, fuel, hammocks—trumpets,—glass—cisterns, cases—mess kids, axes, gridirons, tea kettles, galleys, shovels, tongs, charcoal, sulphur, salt-petre, fire engines, fire buckets, bread bags, and an infinite variety of other such articles, not expressly provided by law.

* The item for ordnance, comprises cannon, carronades, swivels, blunderbusses, muskets, pistols, swords, boarding pikes, cutlasses, cannon ball of every description, musket and pistol ball, cannon, musket, pistol and priming powder, powder horns, priming horns, flannel and paper cartridges, cartridge boxes, slow match, lint stocks, worms, rammers, spunges, wads, gun locks, screw drivers, flints, cartridge thread, &c.