

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair, and Mr. Dent reported that the committee had, according to order, had the said bill under consideration, and made some progress therein.

*Resolved*, That this House will, on Monday next, again resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole House on the said bill.

An engrossed bill for an additional appropriation to provide and support a naval armament, was read the third time.

*Resolved*, That the said bill do pass, and that the title be, "An act for an additional appropriation to provide and support a naval armament."

*Ordered*, That the Clerk of this House do carry the said bill to the Senate, and desire their concurrence.

The several orders of the day were further postponed until Monday next.

And then the House adjourned until Monday morning eleven o'clock.

#### MONDAY, MARCH 19, 1798.

A message, in writing, was received from the President of the United States, by Mr. Malcom, his Secretary, as followeth :

*Gentlemen of the Senate and Gentlemen of the House of Representatives :*

The despatches from the Envoys Extraordinary of the United States to the French Republic, which were mentioned in my message to both Houses of Congress of the fifth instant, have been examined and maturely considered.

While I feel a satisfaction in informing you that their exertions for the adjustment of the differences between the two nations have been sincere and unremitting, it is incumbent on me to declare that I perceive no ground of expectation that the objects of their mission can be accomplished on terms compatible with the safety, honor, or the essential interests of the nation.

This result cannot, with justice, be attributed to any want of moderation on the part of this Government, or to any indisposition to forego secondary interests for the preservation of peace. Knowing it to be my duty, and believing it to be your wish, as well as that of the great body of the People, to avoid, by all reasonable concessions, any participation in the contentions of Europe, the powers vested in our Envoys were commensurate with a liberal and pacific policy, and that high confidence which might justly be reposed in the abilities, patriotism, and integrity, of the characters to whom the negotiation was committed. After a careful review of the whole subject, with the aid of all the information I have received, I can discern nothing which could have insured, or contributed to success, that has been omitted on my part, and nothing further which can be attempted, consistently with maxims for which our country has contended, at every hazard, and which constitute the basis of our national sovereignty.

Under these circumstances, I cannot forbear to reiterate the recommendations which have been formerly made, and to exhort you to adopt, with promptitude, decision, and unanimity, such measures as the ample resources of the country afford, for the protection of our sea-faring and commercial citizens ; for the defence of any exposed portions of our territory ; for the replenishing our arsenals, establishing foundries and military manufactories ; and to provide such efficient revenue, as will be necessary to defray extraordinary expenses, and supply the deficiencies which may be occasioned by depredations on our commerce.

The present state of things is so essentially different from that in which instructions were given to Collectors to restrain vessels of the United States from sailing in an armed condition, that the principle on which those orders were issued has ceased to exist : I therefore deem it proper to inform Congress that I no longer feel myself justifiable in continuing them, unless in particular cases, where there may be reasonable ground of suspicion that such vessels are intended to be employed contrary to law.

In all your proceedings, it will be important to manifest a zeal, vigor, and concert, in defence of the national rights, proportioned to the danger with which they are threatened.

JOHN ADAMS.

UNITED STATES, 19<sup>th</sup> March, 1798.

The said message was read, and ordered to be committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Another message was received from the President of the United States, by Mr. Malcom, his Secretary, notifying that the President did, this day, approve and sign two acts which originated in this House, to wit : one entitled "An act making appropria-