

Commonwealth of } In the House of Representatives 59
Massachusetts } March 10th 1781 77

When as early in the present Contest with Great Britain it was found that some Persons, influenced by Avarice or Disaffection and unrestrained by any positive Laws, supplied the Fleets of Britain from time to time with Masts, Yards and Spars, under pretence of exporting those Articles to the French Islands in the West-Indies, and other persons, tho' honestly disposed; frequently gave the Enemy opportunities of capturing valuable Cargoes of said Articles by incautiously transporting them to foreign Markets.

The General Court of the State of Massachusetts Bay were no sooner apprized of a practice dangerous in its consequences and evidently tending to serve our Enemies and distress our Friends, than they passed an Act prohibiting under severe penalties the exportation of any Masts, Yards and Spars from said State of fifteen Inches Diameter and upwards, unless by permission, specially obtained for that purpose from the General Court under the Seal of the State, or from the Governor and Council in the recess of said Court, which Act has been received and is still in force; and as the present shattered condition ~~in the West-Indies~~ of the British Fleet in the West-Indies and other parts, must greatly enhance the value of those Articles among our Enemies, and consequently hold up an additional incitement to the commission of those Evils which the said Act was intended to prevent; it is therefore more than probable that some Individuals in those States where no similar prohibitory Laws are now in being may be induced from lucrative or other Motives to supply the said Fleets with Masts, Yards and Spars, Articles of which they are in great want and cannot otherwise obtain but at an expence and delay that must greatly retard their operations and facilitate those of our Generous Ally. Hence we conclude that every State, that has not already made effectual provision for the purpose, will see the necessity of prohibiting ^{the exportation of} said Articles, unless under certain severe restrictions; but such is our Confidence in the wisdom and

patriotism of the Government of New Hampshire that we are sensible
it is only necessary to point out the probable existence of an evil of the
present magnitude, in order to induce the Legislature of that State to
adopt the most speedy and effectual measures to prevent or punish
it. Therefore

Resolved, That the Governor be and he hereby is requested to write
to the Legislature of the State of New Hampshire on this Subject, that
the necessary measures may be taken if none such are already adop-
-ted to prevent the exportation of Mast, Yards and Spaw from said
Salem State.

Sent up for Concurrence

Caleb Davis, Speaker.

In Senate March 10.th 1781

Read and Concurred

Jeremiah Powell, President

Approved

John Hancock

True Copy

Attest

John Avery Secy