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In Committee } Circular
of Congress } Philadelphia 11th November 1778

Sir The dangerous Practices of Congressers have increased so rapidly with ^{the} Publick Distrust, and have so accumulated them, that every Friend to the Country or even to Humanity, cannot but wish to see some Remedy to an Evil, which threatens the Existence not only of the several States but of the poorcraft of the Individuals which compose them. We are fully sensible that this Disease should be touched with a cautious & with a delicate hand, but at the same time, we confide in the wisdom of your Legislature for this Delicacy & Caution. We do not pretend to mark out the means which they should adopt but that Confidence reposed in us by Congress, demands that we should at least hint, what in our Idea may conduce to this valuable purpose. The Articles necessary for the Consumption of the Army, are easily Designated, and we trust there will not be much Difficulty in distinguishing, between ^{the Dealer in a Manufacturing of those Articles} the Congresser or as he would call himself the Speculator. These two Objects being accomplished, it surely cannot be deemed inconsistent either with Policy or Justice, that he should be obliged to part with them to the Publick. The Process necessary for this purpose, must depend on the civil Institutions which may have been respectively adopted, but it should be as short and as simple as is consistent with the constitution of the State. One thing more is necessary to complete the System, namely the Price. If this is such as to leave the Speculator his Profit, nothing more is operated by the Law, than merely to sanctify his unrighteous Gains. If the Price be fixed by Law, the Efforts now making to render our Money valuable (and which we doubt ^{not} your Legislature will assist by heavy Taxes) will only tend to realize what he hath already accumulated. Perhaps the Power Lodged somewhere, to fix the market Price monthly by the name of office, and a deduction from it of about twenty Cents on Commodities in the Hands of Congressers, would be most effectual. This however & every thing else we have mentioned, is submitted to your wiser Consideration.

We have the Honor to be
Your Excellency's most Obedt^y
Humble Servants
Nathl Sudder
~~COO COO COO~~
Gould Morris
W^m Whipple

Governor of New Hampshire.

1778, Dec. 11.

