

In Congress 2^d Oct^r 1778 - 1

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Whereas the Scarcities of crops of wheat & other grain in the States of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland & Virginia, & the wicked arts of Speculators, fore stallers, & engrossers, who infest every quarter of the country & are industriously purchasing up grain & flour at the most exorbitant prices, render it impracticable to obtain timely & sufficient supplies for the operations of the army & navy, unless the most vigorous measures are without delay adopted to restrain practices so destructive of the public weal:

Resolved, That it be earnestly recommended to the legislative or where vested with sufficient power to the executive authorities of the States above mentioned, to authorise & direct any civil magistrate within their respective jurisdictions on an information given by the commissary or quarter master general, or by the deputy commissary or quarter master general of the respective districts of any extraordinary quantity of grain or flour being purchased & in the possession of individuals, forthwith to issue his warrant empowering the informant to seize the same for the public use paying for the same such price, as may to the respective legislatures appear proper to prevent the practice of engrossing those articles in future not exceeding six dollars per hundred for flour, & in proportion for grain, which may be found in the hands of engrossers.

And whereas the facilitating the supply of the army which was one of the principal objects in laying the embargo has been defeated by individuals purchasing grain & flour with a

a view of exporting the same at the expiration of the term for which the embargo is laid in the respective States.

Resolved,

That the embargo on provisions which by the resolution of the 8.th day of June last was laid until the 15.th of November next, be continued in force subject to such exceptions as are recommended by the resolution of the 2.^d Sept.^r till the last day of January 1779, or until such time as Congress shall give notice to the respective States, that sufficient supplies have been obtained for the operations of the army & for the French Squadron. And that it be recommended to the respective States to take the most effectual measures for carrying this resolution into effect.

Resolved, That it be further recommended to the legislatures of the several States to pass laws for the seizure & forfeiture of all grain & flour purchased up or engrossed, with such exceptions & under such limitations & restrictions as they may think most expedient.

And whereas there is reason to believe that the end proposed by Congress, in recommending an exemption from embargo by their resolution of 2.^d Sept.^r may not only be defeated by private purchasers enhancing prices or by captains making false protests & bearing away to foreign ports, but in cases where vessels may actually arrive in some ports of the Eastern States the cargo may be engrossed by individuals at an extravagant rate, with a view of preying upon the public; to guard against which evils,

Resolved, That it be earnestly recommended to the legislative & executive authorities of the respective States not to grant any exemptions from embargo to any vessels whatever unless, in addition

to the former security recommended, the persons applying for the same, comply with the following stipulations to wit

2.^d ^{1st See below} That the shipper & every man on board of the said vessels whether seamen or passengers solemnly swear, that they will not directly or indirectly be privy to or concerned in any measure whatsoever which may tend to defeat the arrival of the vessel at some safe port in one of the Eastern States, but that they will without any deception, mental reservation or equivocation whatsoever take every measure to carry into effect the intention of the license granted:

3.^d That the shipper shall first agree with the commissary general or person by him duly authorized, for such purpose on the price for which the flour shipsh shall be delivered at one of the ports in the Eastern States for the public use.

Resolved That the exemption from the embargo as recommended by the resolution of Congress of the 2.^d Sept.^r be extended to vessels belonging to the middle of Southern as well as those of the Eastern States under the restrictions of stipulations above mentioned.

Extract from the minutes
Chas Thomson & Co

1.st That the shipper or shippers of the cargo solemnly make oath that no part of the flour or grain proposed to be shipped has been purchased or contracted for since the 10 day of Octo.^r 1778.

Chas Thomson & Co

Resolves of Congress
for Seizing Grain &c.
Monopolised: And Continuing
the embargo &c.
Oct. 2. 1778

New Hampshire

John Hancock

Oct 11/78