

47
Circular

Philadelphia February 8. 1781

Sir

67 #7
You will receive enclosed, two important
Resolves of Congress of the 3^d & 4th Instant

Recommending to the several States, as indispensably
necessary, that they vest a Power in Congress, to levy, for the Use
of the United States, a Duty of five percent, ad Valorem
at the Time & Place of Importation, upon all Goods
Wares & Merchandizes of foreign Growth & Manufacture,
which may be imported into any of the said States, from
any foreign Port, Island or Plantation after the first
Day of May 1781, except Arms & as therein expressed
Also a like Duty on all Prizes & Prize Goods.

The Monies arising from the said Duties to be appro-
priated to the Discharge of the Principal & Interest of
the Debts already contracted, or which may be contracted on the
Faith of the United States for supporting the present
War, and the Duties continued until the said Debts are
finally discharged

You will observe from the Tenor of
the Resolves that if anyone or more of the States im-
mediately pass a Law vesting in Congress the Powers
requested, it cannot take Effect, or operate to any

Purpose

The Honorable

The President of New Hampshire

82
Purpose until all the States that are not prevented by the Events of the War shall have passed similar Laws. That is, at present, all the States except South Carolina & Georgia; and when all the other States shall have passed the necessary Laws, the Monies arising from the Duties are to be applied to their Benefit, exclusive of the remaining States, unless such States shall pass similar Laws the first Session after the Events of the War will admit of the assembling their Legislatures, and Congress have not the least Doubt of their Compliance as soon as Circumstances shall put it in their Power

The Necessity of the Duties & Imposts being raised under one general & uniform Direction is an Idea that will readily suggest itself

I am specially directed to urge the Necessity of immediately calling the Assembly, if not already convened, for the Purpose of vesting Congress with the Powers mentioned in the enclosed Resolutions

Although it may be improbable any Person not particularly acquainted with the daily Business in Congress should have an adequate Conception of the Difficulties & Embarrassments that arise for Want of some certain & permanent Fund to support the national Credit & cement more effectually the common Interest of the United States, yet I doubt not, the Wisdom, Knowledge & Penetration of the respective Legislatures will view those Embarrassments as very great. It ought to be remembered that Loans are not to be obtained without

without some permanent Fund established at least to discharge the annual Interest punctually.

That, in the present State of our Finances, the Army must be in a great Measure immediately supported by the States separately, in a precarious Manner & perhaps very unequally: and a Train of Embarrassments, too obvious to need Enumeration, must ensue: which have already been felt in a Degree, and must greatly increase

I have only to add, that it will be of Importance to transmit to Congress the Acts that may be passed in consequence of the enclosed Resolves as soon as possible —

I have the Honor to be
with every Sentiment of Esteem & Respect
Sir
your most obedient
& most humble Servant

Sam Huntington President

02