

Ordered, That it be referred to Messrs. Ross, Tracy, and Bingham, to consider and report thereon to the Senate.

The Vice President signed the two enrolled bills last reported to have been examined, and they were delivered to the committee, to be laid before the President of the United States for his approbation.

A message from the President of the United States, by Mr. Malcom, his Secretary:

Mr. President: The President of the United States, on the 1st instant, approved and signed "An act providing a naval armament," and "An act to ascertain the time for the next meeting of Congress, and to repeal the act heretofore passed for that purpose."

He also communicated the following written message from the President of the United States:

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

The whole of the intelligence which has for some time past been received from abroad, the correspondences between this government and the ministers of the belligerent powers residing here, and the advices from the officers of the United States, civil and military, upon the frontiers, all conspire to shew, in a very strong light, the critical situation of our country. That Congress might be enabled to form a more perfect judgment of it, and of the measures necessary to be taken, I have directed the proper officers to prepare such collections of extracts from the public correspondences as might afford the clearest information. The reports made to me, from the Secretary of State and the Secretary of War, with a collection of documents from each of them, are now communicated to both Houses of Congress. I have desired that the message, reports, and documents, may be considered as confidential, merely that the members of both Houses of Congress may be apprized of their contents before they should be made public. As soon as the two Houses shall have heard them, I shall submit to their discretion the publication of the whole or any such parts of them as they shall judge necessary or expedient for the public good.

JOHN ADAMS.

United States, July 3, 1797.

The message and papers were read.

On motion,

The copy of a letter communicated with the message was again read, in the hearing of Mr. Blount, who was absent when it was read the first time: and who, on being requested to declare whether he was the author of this letter or not, observed, that he wrote a letter to Carey, but was unable to say whether the copy was a correct one or not, without recurrence to his papers; and desired that he might have until to-morrow to reply.

Ordered, That the message and papers lie for consideration.

Ordered, That the Secretary acquaint the House of Representatives that the President of the United States hath approved and signed the two bills last mentioned.

The Senate proceeded to consider the report of the committee on the bill, entitled "An act laying duties on licenses for selling foreign wines and foreign distilled spirituous liquors by retail" and, after debate,

Ordered, That the further consideration thereof be postponed.

After the consideration of the Executive business,

The Senate adjourned to 11 o'clock to-morrow morning.

TUESDAY, JULY 4, 1797.

The Senate proceeded to consider the message of the President of the United States of the 3d instant, with the papers therein referred to.

Mr. Cocke laid before the Senate a letter addressed to him, signed William Blount, purporting, that it was necessary for him, the said William Blount, to have further time for recurrence to his papers and other evidence to remove suspicion.

On motion,

Resolved, That so much of the message from the President of the United States, of yesterday, and the papers accompanying the same, as relates to a letter purporting to have been written by William Blount, a Senator from the state of Tennessee, be referred to a select committee, to consider and report what, in their opinion, it is proper for the Senate to do thereon; and that the said committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records, relating to the subject committed to them, and that Messrs. Ross, Stockton, Henry, Sedgwick, and Read, be the committee.