

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1782

The supplemental ordinance for regulating the Post Office of the United States of America, was read a second time, being debated by paragraphs, and some amendments made:

Ordered, That Monday next be assigned for the third reading.¹

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1782

The supplemental ordinance for regulating the Post Office was read a third time, and passed as follows:

The Committee, consisting of Mr. [James] Duane, Mr. [Elias] Boudinot and Mr. [Daniel] Carroll, to whom was referred the letter from Ebenezer Hazard, Postmaster General, on the subject of the Ordinance passed for regulating the Post Office, present the following draft of an explanatory Ordinance for regulating the Post Office, to wit:

~~AN~~ EXPLANATORY A SUPPLEMENTAL ORDINANCE FOR REGULATING THE POST OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Whereas, since the passing the ordinance for regulating the Post Office of the United States of America, it hath been represented that the allowance thereby made of commissions to a deputy postmaster, on the money only arising from the postage of letters, would in many instances be inadequate to the service, and that the provision that all the dead letters should be registered and preserved, will occasion great and useless trouble and expence; and no provision is made therein for the deputy postmaster with the main army; in order therefore to remedy the defects of the before-mentioned ordinance:

Be it ordained by the United States in Congress assembled, and it is hereby ordained by the authority of the same, that it shall and may be lawful for the Postmaster General for the time being, to allow to his respective deputies such commissions as he shall think their respective services may merit, not exceeding twenty per centum on the postage of all letters, making the same allowance for free letters

¹ On this day, according to the indorsement, was read a letter of Captain Segond. "So far as relates to his request for leave to go into New York to recover his servants and baggage" it was referred to the Secretary at War to take order. A copy of the letter is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 78, XXI, folio 261.

as if they paid postage: and that instead of registering and preserving all dead letters, from time to time, remaining in the general Post Office, it shall be sufficient and the Postmaster General is only required to preserve such of them, the contents and enclosures of which may be valuable.

And be it further ordained by the authority aforesaid, that the act of the United States in Congress assembled, respecting the postmaster at head quarters of the army, passed on the 11th day of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-two, be, and the same is hereby revived and declared to be in full force.

And be it further ordained by the authority aforesaid, that it shall and may be lawful for the Postmaster General for the time being, to allow and pay to any informer, one moiety of the penalties which may be recovered upon his information, for offences against the 4th and 5th clauses of the before mentioned ordinance for regulating the Post Office of the United States of America. Done, &c.¹

Congress resumed the consideration [of] the report of the committee, on the letter of 19 August from the Commander in Chief, &c. and the same being postponed, a motion was made by Mr. [Hugh] Williamson, seconded by Mr. [David] Ramsay, to resolve

“That Congress ~~have no occasion~~ see no sufficient reason to recede from the opinion they expressed in their resolution of the 29 of April last, however as the Commander in Chief of the British army has expressly declared his disapprobation of the barbarous murder of Captain Huddy and has caused inquisition to be made concerning the murderer, and has promised that further enquiry shall be made, &c., Congress recommend to the Commander in Chief that he suspend the execution of any British officer in retaliation for the death of Captain Huddy until the promised inquisition shall be made, or so long as he may find consistent with the honor of the United States and safety of their citizens.”²

¹ This ordinance, in the writing of James Duane, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 59, III, folio 377.

² This motion, in the writing of Hugh Williamson, undated, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 19, VI, folio 405.