Speaker was correct, according to the rule of the House, which he read; and observed that that rule contained no limitation within which motions for reconsideration were to be made.

Mr. Randolph supposed the gentleman from Massachusetts had misunderstood him. He did not mean to question the decision of the chair; he did not understand that there had been any decision; he had supposed the circumstance to have escaped the observation of the chair. But if the course proposed, were correct, and any act of this House may be reconsidered on a succeeding day, (he spoke of acts in which the other branch of the legislature did not concur) it would be in order to reconsider the appointment of any of the officers of this House; and no member would say that it could be in order to reconsider such an appointment.

Mr. D. R. Williams acknowledged the justness of the observations of the gentleman from Virginia. The gentleman from Massachusetts, in order to obviate the difficulty into which they had got, had pointed out a different mode of accomplishing his object. He would therefore withdraw his former motion, and offer in its place, the following resolution:

"Whereas doubts have arisen as to the construction of the order of yesterday, respecting the furnishing of newspapers to the members of the House of Representatives; to remove which,

Resolved, That the Clerk be directed to obtain newspapers from any number of offices which members may direct, provided the expense does not exceed the amount of the price of three daily newspapers."—Agreed to.

The *Speaker* informed the House that the Clerk had prepared an alphabetical list of the members.

Mr. Blount hoped the question on his amendment to the resolution for appointing standing committees would immediately be taken.

Mr. Elliot said, that this question would decide a principle of some consequence. The gentleman from New-Jersey (Mr. Sloan) had exceeded his usual ingenuity in his endeavors to convince the House of the correctness of the vote he was about to give against a measure which he had once so strongly advocated. But he says we were then all old members, capable of exercising this important privilege. While he believed the powers heretofore vested in the Speaker had been well executed, and he had no doubt, were they continued, would be still so executed; and whilst he wished to see the chair vested with all the powers incident to that high office, yet, as he had always been of opinion the best way of electing standing committees would be by ballot, and he had not been convinced to the contrary by the ingenuity of the gentleman from New-Jersey, he should vote for the amendment.

Mr. Sloan rose to explain; and said he meant to make no insinuations to the prejudice of any members of this House: he only meant to say, that being strangers, they would be at a loss how to make a choice of proper characters to fill these committees.

The question on the amendment was then taken by yeas and nays—Yeas 34; Nays 87.

The question on the amendment being lost, the original resolution which vests the appointment in the Speaker, was agreed to without a division; and the following standing committees thereupon appointed:

Of Elections—Messrs. Findley, Williams, (S. C.) M. Clay, Lambert, Blake, Sturges, Elliot.

Of Claims—Messrs. Holmes, Moore, (S. C.) Nelson, Pitkin, Seaver, Johnson, Humphreys.

Of Commerce & Manufactures—Messrs. Newton, M'Creery, Cutts, Dana, Marion, Thomas, Porter.

Of Ways and Means—Messrs. Campbell, (Ten.) W. Alston, Eppes, Smilie, Tallmadge, Fisk, Montgomery, (Md.)

Of Public Lands—Messrs. Boyle, Morrow, (Ohio) Goodwyn, Russell, Darby, Ely, Smelt.

Of Revival and Unfinished Business—Messrs. Clopton, Van Rensselaer, Durell.

Of Accounts—Messrs. Moore, (of Md.) Stedman, Milnor.

The House then adjourned.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29.

An additional member appeared and was qualified.

The credentials of the members were referred to the Committee of Elections.

A communication was received from N. B. Vanzandt, who officiated as clerk during the recess, informing the house that he had made the usual contract with Messrs. Way for the printing, Mr. Patterson for the stationary, &c.—Referred to the committee of accounts.

A communication was received from the Secretary of the Treasury, enclosing an account of the extra expenses incurred in the Navy Department, since the 22d day of June last, for the year 1807, which was ordered to be printed.

The Secretary adds, that the general estimates will be ready in the course of the next week. The general heads of this report of extra expenditure are as follow:

For ordinance and military fortifications,	$310,554 60
For repairs of vessels,	151,896 73
Provisions,	31,463 15
Marine corps,	29,902 82
Pay of 1100 extra seamen, boys, petty officers, &c.	74,754 29
Timber for 73 gun boats,	87,500 00
	$686,076 59

After this subject was disposed of, a motion was made to adjourn, which was negatived, 24 only rising in favor of it.

Mr. Newton said, that, last session a petition from A. J. Villard was referred to a select committee; and a report made on it by that committee was referred to a committee of the whole house, who did not act upon it. He moved that this petition and documents should now be referred to a select committee.—Agreed.

A communication was received from the Legislature of the state of New York, praying for an appropriation for the fortification of the city of New York, accompanied by several resolutions expressive of their opinion, that the commercial and agricultural interests of that state are equally affected by its unprotected situation. Ordered to be printed.

Mr. Rhea (Tenn.) offered the following resolution, which was agreed to, and ordered to be printed:

"*Resolved*, That the Committee on Public Lands do enquire into the expediency of laying off and describing by certain metes and bounds, the tract of country to which the Indian title has been extinguished within the limits of Louisiana, and to include all the settlements within the said territory, and of having the said tract of country laid off into townships and sections, half and quarter sections, agreeably to the several laws heretofore made for surveying the public lands of the U. States; and also to enquire into the expediency of granting one quarter of a section to every free male white person who now resides thereon, or who will within —— years actually improve and reside thereon."

Mr. Dawson moved that the House should go into a Committee of the whole on the state of the Union.

Mr. Thomas wished this business might be laid over till to-morrow. Gentlemen had not yet had sufficient time to examine the President's communication.

The House agreed to go into committee of the whole, there being 47 for it, and 42 against it.

The *Speaker* called Mr. Dawson to the chair; but he declined, stating that he had prepared some resolutions, which he was about to offer.

Mr. BASSET was then requested to take the chair; and

Mr. Dawson offered the following resolutions:

1. *Resolved*, That so much of the message of the President of the U. S. as relates to aggressions committed within our ports and waters by foreign armed vessels; to the violations of our jurisdiction; and the measures necessary for the protection of our ports and harbors, be referred to a select committee.

2. *Resolved*, That so much of said message as relates to violations of our maritime rights, to impositions on, or interdictions of our neutral rights, be referred to the committee of Commerce and Manufactures.

3. *Resolved*, That so much of said message as relates to our intercourse with the Indian tribes be referred to a select committee.

4. *Resolved*, That so much of said message as relates to our military and naval establishments, be referred to a select committee.

5. *Resolved*, That so much of said message as relates to our finances, be referred to the committee of Ways and Means.

6. *Resolved*, That so much of said message as relates to enterprises against the public peace, and the means of preventing the same, and of punishing their authors, be referred to a select committee.

The first resolution being under consideration,

Mr. Quincy thought this resolution embraced objects unconnected with each other, & objects of magnitude sufficient to warrant a separation of them. The first part of the resolution relates to aggressions committed in our ports and waters. The most material object contained in the President's message, said Mr. Q. has relation to an attack upon one of our vessels by an armed ship of a particular nation, and all the other circumstances mentioned are stated merely as aggravations of this attack. He therefore submitted with deference to the committee, the propriety of referring whatever relates to the attack on the Chesapeake to a select committee; and entering into a separate resolution for the appointment of a distinct committee to consider what may be necessary for the further defence of our ports and harbors. Upon this view of the subject, he would offer an amendment to the resolution in question. He wished to add after the word "resolved,"

"That so much of the message of the President of the United States as relates to the attack made on the frigate Chesapeake be referred to a select committee; and that the committee be instructed to enquire into the circumstances of that attack, the causes assigned for making it, and the manner in which it was repelled, and to report the result of such enquiries in detail to this House.

Mr. Q. stated his object for wishing to give the enquiry this direction was, in the first place to submit the most prominent subject in the message to a distinct committee—a subject which stood most prominent in the public mind—a subject which had occasioned a great degree of irritation, and concerning which it was expected the public would no longer remain ignorant of all the circumstances of the transaction. The message of the President, he said, properly led to this enquiry, and this House ought to pursue it. But he was not for a mere reference of the subject, leaving the committee to act as they might chuse upon it; he wished specific instructions to be given them. Indeed he considered the honor of the nation deeply concerned in the object of the last part of his proposed amendment. He hoped, therefore, the matter would not be huddled up, but that a proper enquiry would be entered into in the manner proposed.

Mr. Elliott enquired of the Chairman, if an amendment offered to a resolution which embraces the same objects with the original motion, ought not to be considered as a complete substitute. It appeared to him that this was the case at present, and that the motion of the gentleman from Massachusetts could not therefore be in order.

The *Chairman* did not consider the proposed amendment as a substitute for the original motion, and therefore in order.

Mr. Alston could not conceive the object of the gentleman from Massachusetts in making this motion. He surely does not mean to justify the conduct of the British. It will be time enough to enter into an enquiry on this subject hereafter. The matter is proposed to be committed generally, and the committee will make such a report as they think proper. If this report should not be satisfactory to the gentleman from Massachusetts, he can propose any modification of it which he may judge necessary. Does the gentleman mean to cramp the operations of the committee, by giving them his special instructions? He hoped no step would be taken which should be calculated to narrow the enquiries of this important committee.

Mr. *Dawson* observed, that the gentleman from Massachusetts had mistaken his intention in offering the resolution under consideration. He did not mean the proposed committee to enquire particularly into the attack on the Chesapeake. Such an enquiry would be at present premature. When the time arrived for taking up this subject, he should be as ready as the gentleman from Massachusetts, or any other gentleman to enter upon it. Mr. D. read that part of the message of President which has reference to this affair, and asked the members of the committee if it would not be altogether premature to go into this subject before the House received the information which the President of the United States has said, he expects shortly to be able to lay before them? His object was to make the ground of reference as general as possible.

Mr. *Quincy* said, that the gentleman from N. Carolina had asked what was his object in making this motion. He would answer that it was to have the whole detail of the affair respecting the Chesapeake laid upon our tables. It was asked if he meant to justify the British. He knew not why this question should be put. His motion was a plain one. He wished to have the facts which he called for before him, and he should not then be afraid to meet the gentleman from N. Carolina, or any other. His principles and feelings were as purely American as those of any gentleman. He wished to gain facts, and to obtain these he thought it best to fix on single objects, and not to extend our views over the whole horizon. In reference to what had fallen from the gentleman from Virginia, what he had proposed would have nothing to do with our negociations abroad. No expression of the opinion of this House is required. All that is asked is, that the committee shall collect a detail of facts. The committee will not make their report until they think proper; but the enquiry ought to be instituted. Suppose our dispute with G. Britain should be amicably settled, would not this enquiry be necessary? Would you not enquire into the causes which led to the attack? He considered the dispute as being not only between us and Britain, but between us and France. At any rate he wanted the facts, and when they were before the House, a correct judgment might be formed of the affair. The honor of the nation was concerned to know whether a proper degree of resistance had been made to repel the attack of the British, by our officers; if not, the opinion of this House ought to be expressed on the occasion.

Mr. Elliott felt equally anxious with the gentleman from Massachusetts to receive the information required by his proposed amendment; but he could not consent to suppress the original resolution proposed by the gentleman from Virginia. He did not rise to appeal from the decision of the Chair, or to question the correctness of its opinion; but his own ideas of the spirit of the rules of this House would govern his vote on this occasion were every other consideration out of view. This rule states that "no new new motion or proposition shall be admitted under color of amendment, as a substitute for the motion or proposition under debate." Without appealing from the decision of the chair, he could not help considering the present motion to be a violation of this rule, as it was, in his opinion, under color, a complete substitute for the original motion. He thought one part of the information required by this amendment was altogether unnecessary. He alluded to that part which asks for the manner in which the attack was repelled. Every man, woman and child in the U. States knew that no resistance was made. If he were to vote for the resolution, he should wish the word *received* to be used instead of the word repelled; but as he had already stated, he believed the motion was in conflict with a rule of the House, and therefore he could not vote for it.

Mr. Smilie said, there was one thing which the gentleman from Massachusetts himself, on reflection, must think improper—that was, that part of the motion which relates to the manner in which the attack was repelled. He understood the commander of the Chesapeake was now on trial, and he hoped this house would not do any act which might have an influence on that trial. Whether that officer acted properly or improperly will be determined by the proper tribunal before which it will be tried. Indeed he saw no necessity for this amendment. The original resolution gives the committee full power on this subject, and it cannot be supposed that a committee of this house will not do their duty. He had no doubt but that before this business was got through, there would be complete information before the House.—We should know whether the seamen taken from the Chesapeake were really British subjects or American citizens. The enquiry will force itself upon us; and the resolution as it stands will be sufficient for the purpose.

Mr. Quincy rose to explain. The gentleman from Pennsylvania had said that he deemed it improper to pass this resolution at this time, because of the effect it might have on the trial now pending. If the object of this motion had been to obtain from the House a vote of censure on one side or the other, he should not now have proposed it: It was merely a direction to the committee in what manner they were to proceed, and to collect a statement of the facts attendant on this occurence. If the principle were correct, that this House should be prevented from exercising its duties on any point because a trial was pending in some of the courts, what would be the consequence? Nothing further would be necessary to evade enquiry than to put an officer under arrest, bring him to trial, and postpone the decision from time to time, and thus prevent this House from performing its duty, He saw no weight in this argument.

The amendment was rejected, without a division.

The resolutions being gone through, a motion was made for the committee to rise, which being agreed to; the Speaker resumed the chair, and the House immediately took up the resolutions, and agreed to them unanimously.

A message was received from the Senate, informing the House that they had chosen Dr. Gantt as Chaplain on their part.

A motion was made to adjourn, and negatived, 32 rising in favor of it.

Mr. Thomas submitted the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to enquire whether any and what alterations are necessary in the bill establishing a post-office and post-roads within the U. S. and that they report by bill or otherwise.

Mr. Fisk moved that the House should proceed to the appointment of a Chaplain.

It being suggested that it had been usual that the time for balloting should be fixed on a previous day; *Mr. Fisk* withdrew his motion, and the following resolution was adopted, on motion of Mr. *Southard*:

Resolved, That the House will, at 12 o'clock to-morrow, proceed to ballot for a Chaplain to Congress on their part.

The House then adjourned.

New York, Oct. 26.

The British packet Duke of Kent, left Falmouth on the 10th of Sept. and brings no London papers later than the 7th, to which date they have previously been received at this office.

The governor of Trinidad issued his proclamation on the 26th day of August last, laying a duty of two shillings per quintal upon all salted cod fish imported and sold in that island from the United States of America in American vessels.

THE COLUMBIA DRAGOONS, are desired to meet in the Front of the Captain's, on Saturday morning next, precisely at 9 o'clock, from where they will march to receive their Colors, and afterwards to the Muster ground of the Brigade; it is expected every member belonging to the Troop will punctually attend and be fully equipped.

By order of the captain,

ALEX COCHRAN, Jun. Sec.

October 30—

WILL be sold at *Public Auction*, on the premises, on Monday the 30th of November next, part of Lot number 4, in square 78, being 28 feet front, near the Western Market, and extending back about 147 feet to an alley. There is erected upon this lot, a good *Brick Building* covering the whole front, with a good Kitchen and enclosure, and was formerly occupied by Dr. Bullus. As the property is well known, nothing further descriptive is thought necessary.

Washington, October 30—tds

WILLIAM O'NEALE'S BOARDING HOUSE.

SIX or seven gentlemen can be accommodated with genteel boarding and lodgings, and stabling for six or seven horses during the session of Congress. A coachee will be furnished free of any expence to the members to the Hall and back again.

WOOD & COAL will be sold at his coal yard, or delivered to those housekeepers who want it. Twenty tons of good *Timothy* for sale by

WILLIAM O'NEALE,

Near the West-Market.

Washington City, October 30——w3t.

FRESH TEAS—The subscriber has received by Captain *Elwood*,

6 Chests of Old Hyson,		
4 ditto Young Hyson,		*Teas.*
4 ditto Best Imperial		

Oranges, limes, oil, olives, capers, &c.

Daily expected—

50	Boxes of	mould	Candles
20	ditto	dipped	ditto
50	ditto	brown	soap
10	ditto	white	ditto

and a large quantity of candles, preserved limes, ginger, currant jelly, pickles, &c.

P. MAURO.

October 30—tf.

Post-Office, Washington city, October 28, 1807.

UNTIL a different notification shall be given, all mails from this office will be closed at 6 P. M. on the days specified in the published lists of the last summer's arrangement, except those therein stated to close at 11 A. M. and 2 P. M. the former of which will continue to be closed, during the winter establishment, at 11 A. M. and the latter at 12 M. on the days mentioned in the summer lists.

N. B. Lists of the summer establishment have been sent to the Members of Congress, and Officers of Government, all other persons who desire them shall be furnished at the office.

T. MUNROE.

October 30—3t

FOR SALE—On Saturday the 14th day of November, will be sold at Auction either separately or together, the three *Two story* BRICK BUILDINGS on E street between 10th and 11th streets, late the property of Charles Cist, deceased; being near the Bank, the Public Fountain and Centre Market; their local situation renders them peculiarly eligible either for private families or a boarding house—Also, at the same time will be sold a large *Frame Building* in the rear of the above houses, well calculated for a work shop.

Terms of payment, one fourth cash, and the remainder in six, twelve, and eighteen months.

⁂ Should the weather prove unfavorable the sale will take place the following Monday.

S. SPEAKE, Auct.

October 30—8t

BY order of the Orphans Court of Prince George's county, the subscriber will sell at *Public Vendue*, on Tuesday the 1st of December at the Plantation formerly the residence of Leonard Waring, late of said county deceased, all the PERSONAL PROPERTY of said deceased, consisting of two likely young Negro men, two Yoke of Oxen, Cows, Hogs, &c. also Household and Kitchen Furniture, and Plantation Utensils—a credit of nine months will be given on the purchasers giving bond with approved security, bearing interest from the day of sale.

CLEMENT HOLLIDAY, Adm'r.

October 19—3t

P. MAURO takes the liberty to inform his friends, the members of Congress, and the inhabitants of the city in general, that he has lately returned from a journey to Baltimore, Philadelphia and New-York, with a large supply of the best and choicest *groceries, wines, spirits, cordials, fruits, preserves, spices, pickles, &c. and* ALSO, with a large and well selected assortment of *DRY & FANCY GOODS*, which he offers for sale at his store adjoining Mr. *Thomas W. Pairo*, west of the Seven Buildings, by whole sale and retail at very moderate terms.

October 30——tf.