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ARCHIVES
OF THE STATE OF
MARYLAND.

IN CONGRESS,

FEBRUARY 3, 1778.

RESOLVED,

THAT every officer, who holds or ſhall hereafter hold a commiſſion or office from Congreſs, ſhall take and ſubſcribe the following oath or affirmation;

"I do acknowledge the United States of America, to be Free, Independent and Sovereign States, and declare that the people thereof owe no allegiance or obedience to George the Third, King of Great-Britain; and I renounce, refuſe and abjure any allegiance or obedience to him; and I do ſwear (or affirm) that I will to the utmoſt of my power, ſupport, maintain and defend the ſaid United States, againſt the ſaid King George the Third, his heirs and ſucceſſors and his and their abettors, aſſiſtants and adherents and will ſerve the ſaid United States in the office of which I now hold, with fidelity, according to the beſt of my ſkill and underſtanding." So help me God.

That all officers of the army ſhall take and ſubſcribe the foregoing oath or affirmation, before the Commander in Chief, or any Major General or Brigadier General.

That all officers of the navy ſhall take and ſubſcribe the ſame, before one of the Commiſſioners of the Navy Boards, or before a Judge or Juſtice of the Peace of the State, wherein they reſpectively reſide or ſhall receive their commiſſions or warrants.

That all perſons holding any civil office of truſt or profit, under the Congreſs of theſe United States, ſhall take and ſubſcribe the ſaid oath or affirmation before a Judge or Juſtice of the Peace of the State, wherein they reſpectively reſide.

That every officer having the diſpoſal of public money, or who is or ſhall be intruſted with the charge or diſtribution of public ſtores, ſhall, at the time of taking and ſubſcribing the foregoing oath or affirmation, alſo take an oath or affirmation of office in the following words.

"I do ſwear (or affirm) that I will faithfully truly and impartially execute the office of to which I am appointed, and render a true account, when thereunto required, of all public monies by me received or expended, and of all ſtores or other effects to me intruſted, which belong to the United States, and will, in all reſpects, diſcharge the truſt repoſed in me with juſtice and integrity, to the beſt of my ſkill and underſtanding."

That every officer, taking the foregoing oaths or affirmations or either of them, ſhall obtain from the perſon adminiſtering the ſame, duplicate certificates ſpecifying the time of his taking it or them and alſo his name and rank or employment.

That every military officer ſhall deliver or tranſmit one of the certificates ſo obtained, to the Commander in Chief or the Commander of a Department, or to ſuch perſon, as by General Orders ſhall be appointed to receive the ſame; and the ſaid commanding officers ſhall cauſe the certificates ſo received to be ſent to the Secretary of Congreſs, and ſhall keep an exact liſt of the names of all officers whoſe certificates ſhall be received and forwarded, together with their ſeveral ranks and the times of their being qualified.

That every officer in the navy ſhall deliver or ſend one of the certificates by him obtained to the Navy Board moſt convenient, who are required to tranſmit the ſame, and alſo a certificate of their own qualifications, to the Marine Committee, as ſoon as conveniently may be.

That every other perſon employed in any civil department or office as abovementioned, ſhall ſend or deliver one of the certificates by him obtained to the Secretary of the State, to which he belongs, or to ſuch other perſon or perſons, as the Governor or Preſident of ſuch State ſhall direct. And the Governors or Preſidents of the ſeveral States, are hereby requeſted to attend to this matter and to cauſe the certificates, when received, to be tranſmitted to the Secretary of Congreſs.

That each deponant or affirmant ſhall retain and keep the other certificate, by him obtained, as a voucher of his having complied with what is hereby enjoined him.

Reſolved, That every officer civil or military, now in office, ſhall take and ſubſcribe the qualification above directed, within twenty days after notice hereof; and every perſon hereafter appointed to any office, by or under the authority of the Congreſs of the United States of America, ſhall take and ſubſcribe the ſame, previous to his acting in ſuch office: And every officer who ſhall continue or preſume to exerciſe any commiſſion civil or military, under the authority of the Congreſs of the United States of America, without taking the qualification, in time and manner above directed, ſhall be caſhiered and forfeit two months pay to the uſe of the United States of America, and be rendered incapable of ſerving in the army of the ſaid States, and of executing thereafter any office under Congreſs.

And whereas many perſons, employed as Deputy or Aſſiſtant Commiſſaries or Quarter-Maſters or in other civil departments are diſperſed in various parts of the continent, over whom neither Congreſs nor the head of their reſpective departments can have the immediate inſpection.

Reſolved, That it be recommended to the legiſlative and executive authority of every State, to take effectual meaſures for preventing any perſon, within their State, from exerciſing any office in the civil department of the army or in any other civil department under Congreſs, who ſhall not, when thereunto required by any Magiſtrate, produce a legal appointment to that office and a certificate of his having taken the foregoing oaths or affirmations, or who ſhall neglect or refuſe to take and ſubſcribe the ſaid oaths or affirmations within the time above limited.

Reſolved, That the reſolutions paſſed the 21ſt day of October 1776, preſcribing the form of an oath or affirmation and directing the ſame to be ſubſcribed by officers holding commiſſions or offices from Congreſs, be and they are hereby repealed.

Extract from the minutes,

CHARLES THOMSON, *Secretary.*