

Mr. WHITE'S SPEECH, IN SENATE.

JANUARY 7, 1809.



Under consideration Mr. Giles' bill for enforcing the embargo laws and the amendments to it, sent up by the house of representatives. Mr. Reed moved to strike out "secretary of the treasury" in the 15th section for the purpose of inserting President of the United States—he supported the motion with a few pertinent remarks, but which were not replied to. When the vote was about to be taken, Mr. White rose and observed,

MR. PRESIDENT,

JUN 14 1935

I HAVE no hope of the present amendment succeeding, and indeed, I distinctly perceive it is not the intention of the majority to vary the bill in any respect from the form in which it is now presented to us. In this, sir, perhaps, they may be right, for I view the bill myself as so vitally poisonous, so radically corrupt, that I do not believe it is amendable. It is under this solemn impression, I confess more from a sense of duty, than a hope of success, that I now rise to make one other last effort to ward off, if possible, this bold and deadly charge upon the constitution and liberties of this country. For the purpose, therefore, of obtaining another vote of the senate upon the bill itself as well as the amendments, I now move you, that the further consideration of this subject be postponed till the first Monday in November next. I thank God, that it is at least accorded to one branch of the legislature to pass upon this bill in the day time; and to this I must attribute the sudden dumbness that seems to have fallen upon its advocates here; their refusal not only to discuss, but their evident reluctance even to hear any discussion on this subject.

Upon the motion which I have submitted. I consider the bill, as well as the amendments from the other house, open to debate; it was not, however, with this view that I made the motion. I have no wish to talk for the sake of being heard, or occupy the time of the senate without at least a hope of attaining some object. I had not intended to have said a word on this subject, nor will I now enter upon the merits of the bill, my objections lay to every part of it; yet sir, I could not have patience to examine the minute details of a measure, in the prominent points of which I see, concealed, a blow directed at the vital parts of every thing dear to a freeman.... Pass this bill, and the liberties of your country are prostrated. The civil authority is subjected to the military; not only the property, but the personal liberty, nay, the life of every man in the communi-