

~~shall be so fitted and equipt for sea that their readiness be reported without loss of time to the said Superintendent, who is hereby authorized to give sailing orders and instructions to the Commander or Commanders thereof, to perform such voyage or cruise as he shall direct for the benefit of the service of the United States, he being responsible to the United States in Congress assembled for this extra official duty in the same manner as he is for the due performance of the functions of his office, and that the said agent from time to time obey and execute such orders as he may receive from the said Superintendent of Finance, by special order of Congress for that purpose, with regard to fitting out, manning and equipping the said Vessels of War, and that the Commanders thereof obey such official instructions, with regard to sailing, cruising, returning, &c., as they may in like manner receive from the said Superintendent of Finance, untill a Minister of Marine shall be appointed by Congress, or untill this order shall be revoked by the United States in Congress Assembled.~~

That if at any time in the course of the present year requisitions shall be made to the Agent of Marine by the Superintendent of Finance for any voyages or services to be performed by any of the said Ships of War for the purpose of aiding him in such measures as he may adopt in the execution of his office, the Agent of Marine shall comply with such requisitions, keeping an account of the voyages or services so performed to be laid before Congress when required.¹

¹ This report, in the writing of Thomas McKean, except the portion struck out which is in Theodorick Bland's writing and the final paragraph which is in that of Oliver Ellsworth, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 28, folio 147. On folio 151 appears the following, in the writing of Theodorick Bland:

That a salary of _____ dollars p^r annum be allowed for the Agent of Marine and that he receive no other fee or emolument whatever for his services in that office.

That the said agent be allowed to appoint a temporary subagent in any port of the United States to take charge of such Captures, prizes, goods, vessels or other things belonging in the whole or in part to the United States as shall come to or be consigned to his care, for whose conduct he shall be responsible, and may make the subagent so appointed such allowance for his trouble as he the said agent shall think reasonable not exceeding _____ per cent on the net sales to be paid on a fair adjustment and payment of the net proceeds into the Treasury of the United States or to the order of Congress, or of the Superintendent of Finance to whom a certified copy of all such accounts is to be returned and lodged in his office within fourteen days after the sales are completed.

That the said Agent of Marine shall be allowed one Clerk whose salary shall be _____ dollars per annum to assist him in keeping the accounts, books, &c. appertaining to the Department.