

resented them in the most glaring deviations from truth, imputing to some members arguments contradictory, and which were never advanced. To others remarks and observations never made; and, in a great many instances mutilating and not infrequently substituting whole arguments, upon subjects of the greatest moment; thus throwing over the whole proceedings a thick veil of misrepresentation and error; which being done within the House, at the very foot of the Speaker's chair, gives sanction and authenticity to those publications, that reflect upon the House a ridicule and absurdity highly injurious to its privileges and dignity." After debate the resolution was withdrawn without action.

In 1790, permission was asked for the reporters to return to the floor of the House. In the debate one member said: "It has been said that it was the design of the shorthand writers to give a partial representation of our proceedings. I believe if they are not correctly given it is due to the hurry in which business of this kind is conducted." This member also said that he had noticed in the reports that a bill was presented for the "safe keeping of the accounts of the United States" when it should have read "the Acts of the United States;" and again, "that a committee had been appointed for the regulation of the *barbers* of the United States," which should have read, "for the regulation of the *harbors* of the United States." This clearly showed that the words were incorrectly understood by them, and for that reason he wanted them placed where they could hear correctly.

In 1792 a resolution was introduced as follows: "Whereas, an impartial publication of the debates of Congress will aid the Executive in administering the government, the Judiciary in expounding the laws, the government and citizens of the several states in forming a judgment of the conduct of their representatives,—Congress themselves, in revising and amending their legislative proceedings; therefore, be it RESOLVED, that persons of good reputation and skilled in the art of stenography, be, at the next session appointed by ballot, to take and publish, impartially and correctly, its proceedings, etc."

In 1795 it was resolved that the Secretary of State be requested to receive proposals from any person skilled in the art of stenography, or capable of reporting the debates with accuracy, etc.

In 1796, the committee known as the Stenographical Committee,