

reported that they conferred with a competent stenographer, and the price for a session would be \$4,000, and recommended his employment. In the debate upon this report, many flattering things were said about the ability of stenographers. One member, however, said, "The humble demand for \$4,000 for the session, is not a great deal more than eight times as much as any member of the House receives. The mere mention of such a sum cannot fail to bring forth swarms of stenographers, as a warm night at the play-house is said to hatch comedians."

In 1796, Thomas Lloyd returned to the United States, and petitioned Congress to be allowed to report the debates. Other applicants for this privilege were Edmond Hogan and David Robertson, who reported the Virginia and North Carolina state conventions; and, subsequently, the trial of Aaron Burr. No definite action, however, was taken.

So the resolutions came and went, but Congress did not officially employ stenographers. Sometimes they were not even allowed in the house, being banished alternatively from the Speaker's side, from the foot of the Speaker's chair, and even from the gallery. In 1802 the following rule was made: "Stenographers shall be admitted and the Speaker shall assign to them such places on the floor as shall not interfere with the convenience of the House." In 1814 it was resolved that "Stenographers admitted to take down the debates shall take an oath to faithfully and impartially report the debates, etc."

In 1820 it was resolved that "Stenographers who may be desirous of reporting the debates shall swear that they will truly and correctly, to their best knowledge, without addition, diminution, or alteration, report the debates, etc." And so the war continued until 1848, when reporters were officially employed.

Notwithstanding the fact that official stenographers were not employed prior to this time, very full reports of the proceedings were made of every Congress, from the first, in 1789. Messrs. Gales and Seaton reported them from that time until 1824 for a newspaper with which they were connected, and these reports were afterward sanctioned by the government and ordered to be printed. In connection with the reporting by these gentlemen, it may be interesting to note that had it not been for the presence of Mr. Gales, the memorable debate between Daniel Webster and