

The Silent Recant of Political Ideals

An Historical Analysis of United States Senate Bill 56, "For the relief of Parke Walton"

Counterfeiting, Banking Systems, and the Nature of Politics

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History 17A – Professor Duck

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The political idealism of the Democratic-Republican majority party in the United States government during the early Nineteenth Century purported states rights, small government, and protection of the individual. A consequence of these ideals was strong opposition to centralized banking. Those of the majority party believed that centralized banking would help establish a powerful centralized government, placing its power in the hands of too few at the expense of the states and the average citizen. However, this very idealism created an environment in which monetary fraud thrived. Because of the physical and economic expansion of the country, the demand for currency increased and without a centralized banking system, it was impossible to supply and regulate currency. Ironically, the government considered protection of the ideals more important than the ideals themselves, and ultimately placed the financial burden born of these ideals on the very individuals they were supposed to protect; one such individual was Parke Walton.¹

On January 16, 1826, during the Nineteenth United States Congress second session, Bill 56 “For the relief of Parke Walton” was introduced on the floor of the Senate from the Committee on Finance and passed to a second reading. This bill was a request by Parke Walton, previously a Receiver of Public Moneys in the Land Office at Washington, Mississippi² for compensation in the amount of 2,250 dollars received in bills from the Bank of Louisiana and the Bank of Orleans that he claimed were counterfeits.³ A second reading was as far as the bill went.

¹ “Democratic-Republican Party (United States),” (wikipedia 2006, accessed 29 Oct. 2006); available from <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democratic-Republican>; internet.

² All of Mr. Walton's correspondence, usually available from The Mississippi Department of Archives and History, is currently in storage in an underground vault located in Hutchinson, Kansas. This would have been helpful in determining some aspects of Mr. Walton's daily activities in the Land Office.

³ Senate, A Bill for the Relief of Parke Walton, 19th Cong., 2nd sess., 1827, S. 56, 1 [online, accessed 25 Sept. 2006]; available from <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/hlawquery.html>; internet.

The Senate with its Democratic-Republican majority denied the motion for engrossment and a third reading,⁴ the final process before approving the bill to pass to the House.⁵ This killed the bill and effectively ended Mr. Walton's hope of recouping \$2250, equivalent to approximately \$45,000 in today's currency.⁶

The reason counterfeits existed was mainly due to standardless currency, a result of the near-sightedness of politicians on the issues that faced banking. Combined with many of the environmental factors that contributed to Mr. Walton's workload in the Land Office, a few specialized technological advances, and the political and social attitudes towards counterfeiters, this eased the process of counterfeiting and created an environment aptly named the "Golden Age of Counterfeiting."⁷

Mr. Walton acquired the counterfeit bills due to aspects of his environment and changes in it, including his job as Receiver of Public Moneys, his job location in the Land Office, expanding settlement, expanding banking, increasing speculation, technological advances, the myriad unique bank notes, and political banking decisions. The result of all this created so much business in the Land Office of Washington that Mr. Walton eventually became overworked and overwhelmed, a state in which he could not give due diligence to the inspection of bills.

The acquisition of the counterfeits precipitated conditions the Senate may have employed to justify their eventual denial of the bill, including negligence, fraud, and some other more

⁴ Senate, Senate Journal, 30 Jan, 1827, 129 [online, accessed 29 Sept. 2006]; available from <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/hlawquery.html>; internet.

⁵ House, How Our Laws are Made, 108th Cong., 1st sess., 2003, H.R. 108-93, 41.

⁶ "Measuring Worth" [web based application, accessed 28 Oct. 2006]; available from <http://www.measuringworth.com/uscompare/>; internet.

⁷ Murray Teigh Bloom, Money of Their Own, (New York: Charles Schibner's Sons, 1957), 95.

unlikely scenarios. These accusations were dubious, but provided a shield used by the Democratic-Republican majority in the Senate to avoid acknowledgement of the most important aspect of their decision, the silent recant of the very meaning of their touted ideals in favor of the protection of the ideals themselves.

Mr. Walton's appointment to a United States Land Office was the first environmental factor which contributed to his receipt of counterfeits. In 1810 at the age of 17,⁸ he was appointed to be the Receiver of Public Moneys for the Land Office in Washington, Mississippi for all land west of the Pearl River.⁹ At this time, Mississippi was still a territory having been organized by the United States in 1798 and extended North to the Tennessee boarder in 1804. It was on the frontier of the Southwest expansion of the United States with two-thirds of its lands controlled by Indian tribes until 1832 when most had ceded those lands to the US and moved to Indian territory.¹⁰ Business would boom in the large territory Mr. Walton oversaw because of its increasing settlement due to its location, rich land, and technological advances supporting greater productivity and faster transport. This unprecedented growth would result in a busy period in the Washington Land Office, overwhelming its resources and contributing to the acquirement of the counterfeit bills.

Land offices were arms of the government established to handle the sale of public land or land ceded to the government, handling all transactions related to the exchange of land for

⁸ Member of Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, "Family Search: Where Generations Meet", [search: Parke Walton 1793, accessed 29 Oct. 2006]; available from <http://www.familysearch.org>, 1991; internet.

Parke Walton was born around 1793 presumably in the United States. He married Mary Lee Floyd on December 17, 1818 in Adams County Mississippi. Walton was the father of three children born between the years 1820 and 1827. He died in approximately 1834 in Adams Mississippi at the age of 41.

⁹ Senate, Senate Executive Journal, 17 April, 1810, 146 [online, accessed 29 Sept. 2006]; available from <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/hlawquery.html>; internet.

¹⁰ World Book Encyclopedia, 2005 ed., s.v. Mississippi, 641-642.

settlement, investment, farming, etc. The Land Office was a rather young institution in a young government having only been established 19 years before Mr. Walton's appointment with a total of three branches. Like most government organizations, it was also centralized, with the establishment of the first General Land Office at the Seat of Government in Philadelphia. The centralized Treasurer of the United States handled all money collected.¹¹

As more land offices formed in the territories acquired by the United States, the distances between the main Land Office and these branch offices increased. This was particularly the case of land offices close to the frontier like the Mississippi Land Office of Mr. Walton. One can logically conclude then that the settling of branch accounts with the main office must have been done on a periodic basis. Though transportation and communication technology was advancing, the required travel would still be a very time-consuming process and no form of instantaneous communication would exist for the next thirty-four years until the introduction of the telegraph.¹² Therefore, the settling of accounts would have to have been performed by post or by a rider on horse. Also with the approaching increase in business to the Land Office in the near future, more time was needed to do the job and less time available for someone to travel to settle the accounts.

Mr. Walton's position in the Land Office kindled the possible receipt of counterfeits in his environment. As Receiver of Public Moneys, he was the individual most likely responsible for the settling of accounts within the Land Office, and also most likely responsible for checking the currency to make sure it was genuine. The increased settlement and speculation of the time

¹¹ House, Annals of Congress, 1st Cong., 3rd sess., 1790, pg. 1879-1882, 1909-1910 [online, accessed 25 Oct. 2006]; available from <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/hlawquery.html>; internet.

¹² World Book Encyclopedia, 2005 ed., s.v. Telegraph.

caused an ever-increasing amount of business. This would not only increase the quantity of currency that needed to be checked for authenticity, but would also increase the difficulty of the task. The expansion forced the Land Office to perform business with currency from many different banks, with different bank notes from each. This new diversity of currency required more time to check each bill due to unfamiliarity, and the always-present possibility that nothing existed against which to check the bill. With Mr. Walton responsible for both the settling of accounts in Washington and the verification of currency, it is clear that performing both duties effectively would have been a difficult task.

Furthermore, the tools available to detect counterfeits at the time were elementary at best, completely flawed at worst. One such tool available to Mr. Walton was “Heath's Greatly Improved and Enlarged Infallible Government Counterfeit Detector, at Sight.” This type of book had tips for detecting counterfeits such as looking for ink coloration, paper quality, and printing quality that produced “clear beautiful impressions.” This book also discussed common techniques used in the counterfeiting process such as changing the denomination of a bill by pasting different numbers over the corners or removing the denominations with acid and reprinting new ones. It also discussed piecing, which is the process of creating one bill from the pieces of many others. These books also included pictures for comparison, with the pictures created from the actual plates of the bills themselves, and recommended the use of a magnifying glass to observe closely imprinted patterns on each bill before accepting it.¹³

Using the detection methods available was a time consuming process and only worked if

¹³ Laban Heath, Heath's Greatly Improved and Enlarged Infallible Government Counterfeit Detector, at Sight, (Boston, Washinton: Laban Heath & Co., 1870).

the expected quality and design of a bill were known, if time was available to perform the inspection, and if the amount of currency flowing in was at a manageable level. Books as a detection device had two major disadvantages. First of all, new or virgin printing plates, ones that had not yet run a great quantity of bills and therefore created very sharp images, were used to create the currency prints in the detection books. In practice, many banks would fail to replace or retool these printing plates with the frequency required to maintain very sharp images. As more currency was printed using a particular plate, the quality of the resulting bill was reduced. Time in circulation would also degrade the quality of a bill. These two factors made it even harder to compare a note against the perfect prints in the book. Secondly, bills from new banks created after a book's publication date would not be listed. In Mr. Walton's case and aside from the reasons above, this method of detection and examination of each individual bank note was made unrealistic due to his workload and the eventual overwhelming flow of currency through his office.

The large area of land under the responsibility of Mr. Walton's Land Office; the Market Revolution and settler expansion into the new, rich lands of Mississippi; combined with technological advancement in printing, and proliferation of state banks further inflamed his counterfeit handling potential. Mr. Walton was responsible for all of the area in this territory west of Pearl River, located on what is now the eastern border of Mississippi with Alabama. A different land office handled all of the territory to the east of the Pearl River.¹⁴ This implies that Mr. Walton was responsible for the collection of money on the sale of all land in an area

¹⁴ Senate, Senate Executive Journal, 17 April, 1810.

comprising the entire present state of Mississippi. The land in the Mississippi region was found to be excellent for cotton, and even with Indian occupation high, this news of fertile land, the invention of the Eli Whitney cotton gin in 1793, and an improved type of cottonseed called Petit Gulf imported from Mexico brought settlers from the East to farm the rich soil,¹⁵ and subsequently increased speculation. This increased speculation made Mr. Walton's job of recognizing notes more difficult. The investors participating in speculation were most likely from other states and therefore had different currency from different banks. Many of these notes might have been unfamiliar to Mr. Walton and would not be listed in any of his "detectors."

In 1815 the Market Revolution began in the United States creating a shift in the market economy and increasing the need for currency, contributing to further land expansion due to specialization and technological advancement. It had the effect of industrializing much of the northern United States, encouraging specialization of production and allowing the purchase of some items rather than producing everything one needed. In the South, it caused an increase in European and domestic demand for cotton, which in turn strengthened the demand for land on which to grow cotton. Steamboats began to travel the Mississippi River providing a much faster form of transportation to and from the interior of the United States increasing the flow of supply and trade.¹⁶

One invention discovered in 1815 constituted a great blow to the ability of Mr. Walton to detect counterfeits. Jacob Perkins would combine his invention with that of Asa Spencer, providing a way to create exactly matching multiple copper plates from a design on a single

¹⁵ World Book Encyclopedia, 2005 ed., s.v. Mississippi, 641-642.

¹⁶ John M. Murrin, et al., Liberty Equality Power: A history of the american people to 1877, vol. 1, 3rd ed., (Fort Worth: Harcourt College, 2002), 328.

roller, improving the efficiency of the printing process. Jacob would apply this new technique to the bank note industry. Before this invention, the plates used to print bank notes were etched by hand, each of which varied slightly.¹⁷ Upon initial consideration, it seems this new process would benefit Mr. Walton for it produced notes of much higher quality, more difficult to counterfeit. However the process proves detrimental, as state banks were now able to print bank notes at a faster rate, producing an increase in the flow of non-standardized currency in the economy.

The volume of diverse bank notes that Mr. Walton received in his office was a direct result of the expanding state-specific currency system with no form of standardization and of a deregulated banking environment. During the twenty years of the charter for the First Bank of the United States between 1791 to 1811, the number of banks grew from four to one hundred and the amount of banking capital by a factor of ten. However, over the next four years, between the expiration of the charter for the First Bank of the United States and issue of the charter for the Second Bank of the United States in 1816, the number of banks would grow again from one hundred to 208 and banking capital would more than double.¹⁸ This meant that a new bank was appearing every seventeen days adding to the existing population of one hundred banks, many with their own currency. The ability for Mr. Walton to determine the legitimacy of every bill would have been nearly impossible.

The issues of myriad different bank notes printed by individual banks, market expansion,

¹⁷ Chuck O'Donnell, The Standard Handbook of Modern United States Paper Money, "Printing Paper Currency", 7th ed., (Krause Publications inc., 1982), 17.

¹⁸ Stephen A. Caldwell, A Banking History of Louisiana, (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1935), 5, 14-15.

technological advancement, increasing settlement, and investment in the Mississippi area, combined with the large area covered by his land office ultimately produced the environment in which an overwhelmed, overworked Parke Walton was unable to examine every note or unable to compare them, and accepted his counterfeit notes.

The final contributing factor of Democratic-Republican policies on banking, based on their ideals of small government and states' rights in the pursuit to protect the individual, environed Mr. Walton with counterfeits and gave rise to the question of his propriety, producing the exact opposite effect of the policies proposed purpose, protection. Since the creation of the United States, the argument between strong centralized government versus states' rights had been at the forefront of many discussions. This argument contributed to attitudes on banking, and not necessarily along party lines, but within the parties themselves. Two different ideas of banking systems existed, centralized and decentralized.

Decentralized banking was firmly backed by the Republican Party and later vehemently defended by Andrew Jackson and the Democratic-Republican Party. Jackson believed that a centralized system put the wealth of the nation into the hands of a few, gave too much control to the central government, was unconstitutional, and helped the rich get richer infringing on the hardworking yeomen whom he believed were the model upon which society should be based. These were ideals of the Democratic-Republican Party as formed over time and in no small part by attitudes and dealings of Thomas Jefferson, with whom Jackson aligned himself. It left the power to enforce, create, and regulate currency in the hands of the states. This policy allowed the state banking institutions to decide with how much specie to back their currency and how much

paper money to supply.

On the contrary, the Whig Party thought the formation of a centralized banking system was essential to a growing economy and industrialization. It was first supported by a faction of the Federalist party, led by Alexander Hamilton during the Presidency of John Adams, but would later become more generally adopted by the Whigs as a whole. It favored government control of money regulation by controlling federally chartered state banks that issued currency and ensuring hard currency backed it.

A failure of both parties was the concentration on these issues of regulation instead of recognizing the need for standardized currency. This was further exacerbated on the side of Democratic-Republicans, especially that of Andrew Jackson, by their dependence on specie, which in the burgeoning economy was not in sufficient supply to fill demand.¹⁹

State Banks were formed from charters issued by the states. Usually these charters would be issued to wealthy businessmen who would back the formation of the bank. Many of these banks were backed by less specie, or hard currency, than was necessary to cover the amount of bills they produced. This would often cause banks to close their doors, refusing to exchange bank notes for hard currency. Currency supply problems were instrumental in causing the financial panics of 19th century, and would sometimes result in the liquidation of a bank by the patrons. The very yeoman whom Democratic-Republicans said state banking would protect, would lose all of his money when it was made worthless by a bankrupt bank.

A look at the history of banking in Louisiana and New Orleans where Mr. Walton's

¹⁹ World Book Encyclopedia, 2005 ed., s.v. Banking, 90-94.

counterfeit notes claimed provenance gives insight into a rift that existed within the Democratic-Republican Party and the hubris with which they adhered to their ideals. Its history will also reveal an example of bank liquidation, a rift within the Democratic-Republican Party, and question the competence and fraudulence on the part of Mr. Walton. Two banks opened in 1805 in New Orleans, a branch of the First Bank of the United States and the state chartered Louisiana Bank. The second was much to the chagrin of then current Secretary of the Treasury Gallatin who expressly forbade the establishment of this state bank. He was overruled by the President of the United States, Thomas Jefferson, having received a direct appeal from Mayor Claiborn of New Orleans.²⁰

That Gallatin would oppose the establishment of the Louisiana Bank is a bit odd as Gallatin, a loyal Democratic-Republican, was purportedly a strong opponent of the Federalist Party and rejected the ideas of Alexander Hamilton. He was also a strong proponent of the Second Bank of the United States.²¹ His actions were more fitting of a Federalist and conflicted with the ideals of his own party. This clearly demonstrates the rift within the party on the subject of what was best for the country in terms of banking. Perhaps even more important is that Thomas Jefferson overruled the decision of Gallatin.²² Even though Gallatin's ideas were a bit contrary to those of the party, as Secretary of the Treasury, he was in the position to know what was best for the country's banking system. That Thomas Jefferson ignored his logical advice and instead strictly adhered to the ideals against the centralized system, demonstrated an almost

²⁰ Caldwell, 26-29.

²¹ "Albert Gallatin," (wikipedia, accessed 26 Oct. 2006); available from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albert_Gallatin; internet.

²² Caldwell, 27-29.

fundamentalist attitude.

Two state banks, the Bank of Orleans and The Planters' Bank, were quickly established in 1811 to counter the expiration of the charter of the First Bank of the United States and the subsequent loss of its branch in New Orleans. These banks and the old Louisiana Bank were the only three banks in New Orleans until 1817 when a branch of the Second Bank of the United States was established. In 1818 the Louisiana State Bank was established, followed almost immediately in 1819 by the liquidation of the old Louisiana Bank. It is not until April 7, 1824 when a charter is issued for the Bank of Louisiana.²³

The dates of Parke Walton's term in the Land Office are important when considering the question of his competence and fraudulence, especially with respect to the date of establishment of the Bank of Louisiana. Unfortunately his dates of appointment and termination are not well documented. His appointment date is made vague by multiple entries for the same event spaced four years apart. The first occurs on April 17, 1810²⁴ and the second on February 1, 1814.²⁵ One can safely assume that Mr. Walton ended his appointment in office because of wording in the Senate bill that refers to him as "late Receiver of Moneys," implying either death or termination of appointment. However, because it is documented that he is still alive at this time,²⁶ one can assume that it is referring to his cessation of office. Furthermore, though the mention of his termination is non-existent, the appointment of Joseph Dunbar to Mr. Walton's exact position in the Washington Land Office occurs on May 15, 1820. Like Mr. Walton's appointment, another

²³ Ibid., 27-29, 42.

²⁴ Senate, Senate Executive Journal, 17 April, 1810, 146.

²⁵ Senate, Senate Executive Journal, 1 Feb, 1814, 465 [online, accessed 25 Sept. 2006]; available from <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/hlawquery.html>; internet.

²⁶ Member of Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, "Family Search: Where Generations Meet".

date appears four years later confirming the same event.

Due to the nature of limited-term government appointments, the ambiguity of two appointment dates, and the lack of a record that states specifically the retirement or expiration of Mr. Walton's life, one can infer the bounds of Mr. Walton's term in the Land Office. To be safe, the bounds used for analysis here will be the first date of Mr. Walton's appointment and the last appointment date for Mr. Dunbar, making Mr. Walton's termination date sometime between April and May of 1824. Using the last date of appointment for Mr. Dunbar also more clearly explains why the bill was submitted in 1826, only two years after his termination instead of six.

The first issue then becomes the banks on which the counterfeit notes were drawn. The Senate bill specifically names the Bank of Louisiana and Bank of Orleans²⁷ as these two banks. His assumed termination date and the date of the Bank of Louisiana charter roughly coincide, with the Bank of Louisiana being chartered April 7, 1824. This would support an argument that Mr. Walton had no knowledge of the existence of this bank prior to seeing its notes, making it impossible to verify their authenticity, or know if the bank actually existed at the time of acceptance. This occurrence is explained by the rapid creation of state banks as previously mentioned. It demonstrates how confusing the environment must have been in order to accept notes from a non-existent or brand new bank.

A different explanation could be that notes issued from one of the existing Louisiana banks, such as the Louisiana State Bank, could have used the title of "Bank of Louisiana" on their notes, even though it did not carry the official name "Bank of Louisiana."²⁸ Being a bank

²⁷ Senate, A Bill for the Relief of Parke Walton, 1.

²⁸ Arthur L. Friedderg and Ira S. Friedberg, Paper Money of the United States a Complete Illustrated Guide

of the state of Louisiana, the Senate bill could have referred to the Louisiana State Bank with this generic name.

An approval of a bill for the relief of Joseph Dunbar in 1827 casts some doubt on the competence of Mr. Walton. Mr. Dunbar's bill requested "compensation for extra services ... in bringing up the arrearages of business ... accruing before his appointment."²⁹ This implies that Mr. Walton left some earlier transactions in the Land Office incomplete when he left. However instead of indicating negligence, it reinforces the claim that Mr. Walton was overworked and overwhelmed. From these observations, negligence can be eliminated from the potential reasons for denial of Mr. Walton's bill.

How Mr. Walton's environment engendered counterfeits and his acquisition of them should now be clear. However, the political reasons for rapid formation of state banks that issued their own bank notes and the consequential myriad bank notes used in the economy are so fundamental in exemplifying the reason for the Senate decision that they deserve emphasis before that discussion begins.

The rapid formation of state banks was directly due to the ideals embraced by the Democratic-Republicans, states' rights and protection of the individual. It was the result of these ideals that the centralized banking system was quashed, reborn to stabilize currency³⁰, and then quashed again when Andrew Jackson took the presidential office. The rise of these banking institutions precipitated the creation of so many different bank notes that it would have been

with *Valuations*, 16th ed., (The Coin and Currency Institute, inc., 2001).

²⁹ Senate, *A Bill for the Relief of Joseph Dunbar*, 19th Cong., 2nd sess., 13 Feb. 1827, S.100, [online, accessed 25 Oct. 2006]; available from <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/hlawquery.html>; internet.

³⁰ Caldwell, 7.

virtually impossible to determine whether a note was issued from an actual bank, let alone whether it was counterfeit. In this environment, anti-counterfeit techniques were almost pointless. To use anti-counterfeit techniques, one first needs be sure the note is from a real bank, and with a new bank forming every seventeen days, this was made impossible. The result of adherence to the ideal of states' rights created the environment in which Mr. Walton, a career receiver of money, dealing with it every day and with access to all of the detection and anti-counterfeit devices available, was still duped into accepting 2250 dollars of counterfeit currency. If one holding government office could so easily be defrauded by this nefarious activity, what chance did the average citizen have in determining the validity of currency?

Upon initial consideration, the Senate decision in Mr. Walton's case makes no sense. The bill was denied in 1827 by the Nineteenth Congress, which had a Democratic-Republican majority whose ideals were states' rights and the protection of the individual. The bill should have been reviewed and should have made a speedy course through the Senate into the House with the hope for House approval and the money's return. In other words, Mr. Walton should have been protected as an individual. Protection is the very reason the bill failed, but not for protection of the individual or protection of states' rights, but the protection of the ideals.

These ideals were the very foundation of the Party, the foundation Andrew Jackson would use to gain the trust of the people, to acquire the Office of President, and to justify the dismantlement of the Second Bank of the United States. It was the upholding of these ideals which justified the decision made by Thomas Jefferson against his Secretary of the Treasury Gallatin in issuing a charter for the Louisiana State Bank. It was because of these ideals that the

state banking system existed, and because of the state banking system that the ability to counterfeit was eased, simultaneously making the ability to differentiate a counterfeit more difficult. If the Senate had approved Mr. Walton's bill, it would have been an admission by the Democratic-Republican party that these very ideals contributed not to the protection of individuals, but to the creation of an unstable, malfunctioning economic system, in which even a professional money handler had problems. It would have pointed out that their ideals were failing in their purpose.

Speculation was already demonstrating this failure. Created by the increase of unregulated currency from state banks it was corrupting the very yeoman that the Democratic-Republicans upheld as the model citizen. The enticement for the yeoman is masterfully illustrated by Condy Raguet “promise to pay money was money itself ... plenty of money was a real increase of substantial wealth ... Under these delusive impressions individuals sprang up in every quarter holding inducements to the farmer, the merchant, the manufacturer, and the mechanic to abandon the dull pursuits of a laborious life for the golden dreams of an artificial fortune.”³¹ How many yeoman were persuaded is unclear. What is clear is the artificial fortune of these golden dreams was not so artificial. Mississippi would go on to become one of the largest plantation states in the country, with the majority of the population comprised of slaves. Speculation and banking would continue in a mutualistic relationship, each fueling the other compounding the monetary and social problems. Clearly something was failing.

In addition to corrupting some individuals, the policies also hurt many that used paper

³¹ Caldwell, 7 “Condy Raguet: Currency and Banking”, 296-298.

currency. Numismatic collectors entitle paper currency printed before the Civil War as “Broken Bank Notes,” referring to its complete loss of value.³² Much of this currency had little more than local acceptability.³³ By the time of the Civil War, over one-third of all currency circulating in the United States would be counterfeit³⁴ and state banks would number sixteen hundred.³⁵ A ten-percent tax³⁶ would be levied on state bank notes to discourage their use in an attempt to switch to national currency, but even this currency would quickly be counterfeited. Counterfeiting became so severe that in 1865, an entire government agency, the Secret Service, was formed solely to combat the problem.³⁷ Additionally, It would not be until 1913 that the first central bank of the United States was formed to relieve the individuals of these burdens.³⁸

The year 1827 was one prior to a presidential election with the Democratic candidate, Andrew Jackson, campaigning on a platform of these ideals. The Democratic-Republicans controlled the House in the Nineteenth Congress.³⁹ Had this bill passed from the Senate, it could have been viewed as an endorsement against the economic policies of the Democratic Party from Democrats, adding a powerful argument to the arsenal of the National Republicans. One could make the argument that the dead bill had the same effect as a passed bill, but the bill’s denial cast suspicion on the credibility of Mr. Walton instead of on the ideals of the Party.

The denial of Mr. Walton's bill boiled down to dark politics, as they still exist today

³² Friedderg, “General Information on U.S. Currency, 6.

³³ Caldwell, 16.

³⁴ “United States Secret Service”, [online, accessed 29 Oct. 2006]; available from <http://www.secretservice.gov/counterfeit.shtml>; internet.

³⁵ Caldwell, 16.

³⁶ Heath.

³⁷ “United States Secret Service”, <http://www.secretservice.gov/counterfeit.shtml>.

³⁸ World Book, s.v. Banking.

³⁹ “19th United States Congress”, (wikipedia, accessed 25 Oct. 2006); available from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/19th_Congress; internet.

including cover-ups, secret agendas, vendettas, and preservation of appearance. Those in positions of power, especially in the government, are often times protected from retaliation for their decisions or actions, often at the expense of the individual. For example, Nixon resigned before his impending impeachment brought on by the Watergate scandal, then was pardoned by his Vice President to avoid prosecution. Halliburton received the bulk of the contracts to rebuild Iraq under the existence of unethical close ties to the “previous employee” Vice President Chaney. President Bush used political chicanery for the invasion of Iraq. The consistent decay of our rights and liberties, most recently Habeas Corpus, because of impending terrorist threat. Malfunctioning expensive government bodies like FEMA failed to perform the very function of their existence as demonstrated in Louisiana. Although these next two examples are a bit more along the lines of conspiracy theory they remain unanswered by our government, an action which substantiates the claims of conspiracists. The release of the J.F.K. Documents should exonerate the government if Lee Harvey Oswald was the real killer, yet the release is continually postponed, suggesting cover-up, protection of those involved, and fear of repercussions from US citizens. Indications of vote tampering existed in the presidential election of 2000. All of these incidents directly or indirectly affect the individual through loss of faith in government, loss of income, loss of protection, loss of life, loss of freedom, loss of voice, or a combination of all of these. Most are examples of upholding an agenda or ideal that those within the government adjudge supersedes the cost to the individual. This was the case with Mr. Walton. For the betterment of the Party, to protect the fundamental ideals of the Democratic-Republicans, Mr. Walton's bill was denied, his credibility suffered, and the perhaps-hypocritical nature of the Party

revealed. This action is as if they were saying, “These are our ideals, but only when it suits us.” The individual was made to suffer the financial consequences of the very idealism claiming to protect him.