

To Joshua Sharpe Esq. Annapolis the 27<sup>th</sup> of May 1767.

Dr Br  
I should be very glad, to have the Opinion of His Majesty's Attorney General  
& I should be much obliged to You for obtaining it. You will learn from the  
Case itself what Difficulties I find Myself under, therefore I shall not trouble  
You with a prolix Account of them. I expect that the Assembly will at  
their next Meeting address me again & desire to know why I have not order'd  
the Bonds of the Naval Officers to be put in Suit agreeable to the Request  
that they have now made: I hope You will be able to transmit an Opinion  
before that time by the N York Packet that I may be prepared with a  
proper Answer; but as Lord Baltimore might be much interested in the Event  
of a Trial at home if the Matter should be carried to that Length I would not  
have You take any Step therein till You have seen & consulted Mr Calvert.  
it is possible that he will object to that part of the State wherein the Tonnage  
Duty & Impost of one Shilling a Tnd are mentioned as the Legality of  
collecting such Money has been at times questioned by the Lower House of  
Assembly. But as Acts of Assembly have been made in Virginia, - New York &  
almost all the Colonies laying a Tonnage Duty on British Ships & exempting  
such as are owned by Residents in such Colonies, & as a Duty of 2/10<sup>th</sup> is  
paid on Tobs made in Virg. instead of the 1/ paid in this Province I presume  
You will not find any difficulty in obviating such an Objection if You think  
that part of the State essential. I do not suppose You will lay before Council  
the Case in its present form but that I submit to You, what I am most anxious  
to know is whether I shall be justified in refusing to order the Officers Bonds  
to be put in Suit or whether I must comply with the Assembly's Request. As Mr  
Calvert has writ to me frequently about the Affair & has received several Letters  
from me on the Subject he will be able to inform You of any particulars that  
You may want to know, wherefore I shall only observe to You farther<sup>that</sup> that all the