

76 Annapolis 12th March 1780

Sir
Aaron Dingrose Skipper of a Boat with 117 Barrels of Flour, this Moment
brought upon me for Instructions as to its Destination. The Flour is sent by
Col. P. Tilghman one of the Commissioners for Talbot County, who did not
know to whom the Council and I would have it forwarded and by his
Directions, I have been applied to. The Wind is fair and the Men uneasy
to get under way, I have therefore for the sake of Dispatch which is essentially
necessary at this critical juncture, and without troubling the Council in
the Business, ordered him to deliver his cargo to you
Col. Henry Hollingsworth. I am &c

Council Annapolis 13th March 1780

112. Sir
Yours of the 4th Inst. came to hand Yesterday Morning and Aaron Dingrose
the Skipper of the Vessel, with 117 Barrels of Flour was immediately dispatched
to the Head of Elk with Directions to deliver his cargo to Col. Henry
Hollingsworth, to whom we must request you will forward all the Flour
Wheat &c you may collect in Virtue of the Act for the immediate Supply
of Flour and other Provisions for the Army, and as water Carriage is attended
with less Expence to the Public as well as less Inconvenience to Individuals
we prefer that Mode of Conveyance. We are clearly of Opinion that the Flour
&c purchased by the French Agents are liable to Seizure by the Letter
as well as the Spirit of the Law under which you act, and upon every
Application made to us by the Commissioners, we have invariably
directed them to take such Purchases into their Possession, and transmit
to us a particular Account thereof but to wait our further Instructions
before they are forwarded to Camp.
Peregrine Tilghman Esq. We are &c

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113. Sir
We are sorry to hear your Endeavours to procure Recruits have not been
attended with the desired Success. The Assembly will probably meet in
a few Days and, if it should appear to them that the Public will receive
an Advantage by extending the Term beyond the first of April for
giving the State Bounty to Recruits, there is little Doubt but it will
be done; we have not the Power to continue it beyond the Time limited
by the present Recruiting Law. Col. Dashiell informs us that it has been
suggested to that Order of People who were most likely to enlist, that
a Draft from the Militia would probably take Place, which may
have induced many to decline entering into the Service for the present,
from an Expectation of getting more as Substitutes. We think there
is no Prospect of a Draft as by a Letter from His Excellency the
General, the Deficiency of the Maryland Quota is much less than
we expected.
Capt. Lewis Handy. We are &c