

In Council Chamber April 18. 1798

Sir,

at the time the militia were assembling to march against the Insurgents to the westward an application was made to the Executive of this State, by the Secretary at War to supply a considerable portion of them with arms Bayonets and Cartouch Boxes. although no legal authority existed in the Governor and Council to comply with this request, yet from the importance and urgency of the occasion they readily did it.

Various applications have since been made to procure a return or payment. I myself while a Senator and other Agents expressly sent by the State at a considerable expence have repeatedly applied and have always been unsuccessful from some alledged informality in the Evidence.

an intercourse of this importance, between authorities so high and respectable as the Executives of the General and a State Government, and on an occasion so important and critical ought not to be adjusted by the close and legal Rules established for settling the ordinary official duties of the Departments. Besides this was a military transaction between the Commander in Chief of the United States and the Executive authority of the State of Maryland, and as soon as the occasion which required the use of the arms ceased, they ought by an order from the President to have been returned.

on the 29th May 1797 the then Governor of Maryland under a further representation to the Secretary at War and enclosed the return of the arms that had been delivered by Mr. Engels the armourer at Frederick Town, to which was added an account on which the Claim of the State of Maryland was founded.

Copies of the letters of the Secretary at War are now transmitted, by which it will appear that the arms