

There was nothing in our Message to justify your Expression, "if you are still inflexibly determined not to seize and appropriate British Property in our power to enable us to carry on the war," it cannot even be inferred from that Message, that we were against such Seizure and Appropriation; it only intimated our Opinion, that a Subject so new and so important might properly lie over for the Consideration of a future Meeting, to receive a fuller Discussion. Nothing you have offered has induced us to retract this Opinion. We have endeavoured to show, that this Proposition with which you seem inclined to hurry on this Business, may be attended, with equal Consequences, and we cannot persuade ourselves that any Danger can arise from the Delay of a few Months, unless indeed it is apprehended, that any Part of the Property, meant to be seized may in the mean Time be removed or transferred. It is not our Desire or Intention that the present Owners should avail themselves of the Delay, and therefore wish it to be considered by your House, whether a short Bill, merely for the Prevention of the Transfer or Removal of British Property, may not be proper at this Time. — To sum up in a few Words what we have said, we are far from being convinced of the Justice of confiscating British Property; the Draught by the Bill for distinguishing British Subjects from our own, is liable to the most forcible Objections; we think that we have proved that the Policy is bad; the Necessities of the Public are not, in our Judgment, such as to justify the Seizure and Confiscation, in Opposition to the Dictates of sound Policy, and the Principles of our Constitution; the Sum arising from the Sales would, we think, for the Reasons already suggested, be very inconsiderable, and far short of the real Value of the Property sold. We could wish the Observation, that it is easier to acquire Money than to keep it and use it thriftily, were more attended to. Every unnecessary Expence should in these Times be avoided, Economy should be studied and practised; we cannot help regretting the Length of our Sessions of late, and the heavy Burthens that must thereby necessarily fall on the People; we shall not contribute to lengthen to the present by more Messages on this Subject, which we fear will not convince either House, but only serve to protract Time and accumulate Expence. — We must therefore again call your Attention to the essential Business now necessary to be done, among which the most important is recruiting our Quota of continental Troops; this essential Service cannot or ought not to be delayed one Moment, when the proper Arrangements for this Purpose are adopted by the Legislature, the Appointment Bill passed, and our civil Officers provided for, we would wish to adjourn to some Time in the Month of March next, and we think in a few Days the above material Business may be completed. The Reasons we have now given in Support of our Conduct on this Bill, in Consequence of the Information and Reasoning you have offered to induce a Reconsideration, will induce the Propriety of sending it to you again, in the same Manner we at first returned it.

By Order M. Ridgely C. Secy.

Which was read and ordered to lie on the Table

On Motion the Question was put, That the Standard for the Establishment of the Civil List be in Wheat, payable in Continental Currency, at such Prices as may be agreed upon by the General Assembly? The Yeas and Nays being called for by Mr. Sprigg, appeared as follow. —

(Affirmative)