

Our and your Appeal is now made to our Constituents. We are both bound by what they shall determine. If the People think the Right of seizing and confiscating British Property is not justified, by the Law of Nature and Nations; if they should determine that Policy forbids the Exercise of the Right at this Time; or if they should be of Opinion, that they can pay, by Taxes, 14, 220, 000 Dollars in nine Months, or if unable they should prefer the Sale of their own Property before that of their Enemies, this House will comply with their Demand; but if they should coincide with us in Opinion, we flatter our selves your Honours will not oppose the Voice of your Country, and stand between them and their Enemies, and protect their Property from Sale, to assist us in prosecuting the War. As our Constituents will have Time to express their Sentiments, before the first Day of March next, this House intend to adjourn to that Day.

By Order J. Dickett Clk. of the Det.

Which was read and agreed to and ordered to be engrossed.

The following engrossed Instructions to the Delegates in Congress.

Instructions of the General Assembly of Maryland, to the honourable Thomas Johnson, George Plater, James Forbes, John Hall, Edward Lloyd, and John Hanson, Esquires.

The General Assembly of the State of Maryland have appointed you, or any two or more of you, to represent this State in Congress for the ensuing Year, and do instruct you to repair to the City of Philadelphia, or to any other Place to which Congress may adjourn, there to consult, advise, direct, and order, such Measures as shall appear best calculated for the Establishment of the Rights, Liberties and Independence of this State, and of the United States of America; and you, or any two or more of you, are hereby invested with full Powers, in conjunction with the other States, to prosecute the War, conclude Peace or Truce, form Alliances, or enter into Commercial Treaties, and generally to do and transact all and whatsoever Delegates to Congress may by the Constitution of this State be empowered or entrusted to do or transact. We have no particular Instructions to give; only with regard to the Confederation, we instruct and require you to govern yourselves in all points relative thereto by the Instructions heretofore given to the Delegates to Congress from this State, at October Session 1770. The Events of the last Campaign, the Number of continental Troops employed on Western Expeditions, and the great Injustice of burthening this State for the sole and exclusive Advantage of others, induce us to be of Opinion, that Congress will interfere & not suffer that immense Tract of Country to be appropriated to the Enslavement of particular States. And we are clear in our Opinion, that those States will find in a few Years, that they are grasping at a Dominion they cannot hold.

Sent to the Senate by Mr. Wetherston and Mr. Coonton.

On Motion, Ordered, That 200 Copies of the Messages between the two Houses, respecting the Confiscation of British Property, be immediately printed.

Ordered, That 1000 Copies of that Part of the aforesaid Bill, which directs the Payment of Money and Taxes, and the Time appointed for the Meeting of the Commissioners, be immediately printed; and that the same be also printed in the Maryland Gazette and Baltimore Advertiser. Matthew Tilghman, Esq. from the Senate, delivers to Mr. Poacher the Instructions to the Delegates in Congress, thus endorsed, "By the Senate, Dec. 31. 1777 Read and appointed to By Order M. Ridgely Clk. Sen."