

Supply bill was enacted into a law. The Upper House felt with truth that an attack was being made deliberately upon the prerogatives of both the Crown and the Lord Proprietary; and the Lower House with the bit in its teeth, through its control of the Provincial purse strings, adopted the policy of questioning nearly every constitutional right hitherto conceded to the Proprietary and to the Crown to which it could put forward even the most strained constitutional or legalistic claim. For this impasse the Lower House and the Proprietary must both share the blame. Frederick, Lord Baltimore, a non-resident wasteful landlord, was too short-sighted to see the ultimate result of his refusal to make concessions to his people in regard to the taxation of his Maryland estates. He assumed that this could be avoided under a legalistic interpretation of his privileges as derived from a medieval charter. The Lower House, on the other hand, sought to further the demands of the people for a greater degree of self-government by advancing constitutional sophistries and indulging in legal quibbles that had little or no standing before the law, in the hope that the Crown would become so disgusted with the impasse that it would either force the Proprietary to make concessions or annul his charter. Sharpe was in a most unfortunate position. He realized that Baltimore should make concessions, but as the Proprietary representative he was obliged to maintain the claims which Baltimore felt had the support of the law. Sharpe was being pressed by the Crown to secure the passage of the Supply bill. He was being denounced by the representatives of the people for upholding the Proprietary. But notwithstanding all these difficulties, he continued to be personally popular among all classes. This struggle between the Proprietary and the people was to have more far-reaching results than were realized at the time. The battle against Proprietary arrogance developed a spirit of independence among the people which did much to foster the revolutionary movement in the next two decades. The failure of Maryland and other colonies to help pay the costs of the war for their defence was soon to result in the passage of the Stamp Act by Parliament as the means of indirectly forcing them to do so. The Revolution was to follow in due course.

At the March-May 1758 session, the Supply bill, or bill for His Majesty's Service, was introduced in the Lower House by a committee composed of the same men, with the addition of Robert Lloyd, who had drawn up the Supply bill at the three previous sessions. Except that the amount to be raised was increased from £30,000 to £45,000, and that a much larger number of men were to be recruited under it, this was doubtless substantially the same bill which was being debated in the Lower House at the last session, when Sharpe suddenly, on March 7, prorogued the Assembly. The first draft "granted a Supply of £40,000", but during the debate this amount was increased to £45,000 (pp. 557, 575). The title of the bill as authorized on March 31, and introduced on April 6, was identical with the Supply bill which had failed of passage at the recent session, except in the increase of the amount to be raised, and in the bills of credit to be issued (pp. 557, 571). The bill as introduced was considered by the Lower House sitting as a committee of the whole and was amended in several respects, usually by a recorded vote. The number of