

upon his pocketbook. Governor Horatio Sharpe, who was an excellent administrator and personally popular, was of course obliged to act according to the definite instructions of his master, instructions which were most specific, and usually transmitted to him through Cecilius Calvert, Secretary of the Proprietary in London, who was in part responsible for the shortsighted attitude of his nephew the Lord Proprietary, Frederick, Sixth Lord Baltimore. It was the growing hostility of the people to this absentee landlord and mercenary overlord, combined with the passage of the Stamp Act, that did much to prepare the way for the Revolution.

The larger background upon which happenings in Maryland at this period were projected, embraced the events of the last two years of the Seven Years War and the conclusion of the peace between Great Britain and France. The treaty of Paris was signed on February 15, 1763, but news of this did not officially reach Maryland until some five months later, when on July 26, peace was proclaimed by Governor Sharpe and a day of public thanksgiving appointed. But as a matter of fact with the capture of Quebec by Wolfe in 1759 the war in America had virtually come to an end, and relieved of the fear of actual invasion, the Maryland Assembly had on various pretexts refused to make any provision for defense. Immediately following the conclusion of the peace, the northern Indians under the leadership of Pontiac, made a final attempt to throw off the yoke of the whites, and war parties harassed the English settlements, their depredations extending southward along the frontiers of the central colonies. Again the western settlements of Maryland were in a state of alarm, although these Indian attacks proved to be shortlived and the actual damage done was small. It is to the disgrace of both political factions in Maryland, that when the threat to the frontier seemed serious, neither, as this record shows, would even temporarily bury their political differences and make provision for a defense of the settlements.

In Maryland affairs this 1762-1763 period marks the end of the bitter five year struggle between the Upper and Lower houses over the passage of a Supply bill for His Majesty's Service, or the Assessment bill, as it was generally called. This bill, which with various unessential changes, such as the amounts appropriated and the rates of taxation, beginning with the September-December, 1757, session, had been passed by the Lower House at eight successive sessions, to be as often rejected in the upper chamber. It was now again passed for the ninth time at the March-April, 1762, session, the first meeting of the new Assembly that had been elected in 1761. But after its ninth rejection in the upper chamber it was never again to be brought forward by the popular or country party in the Lower House. This abandonment of the Supply bill was in part due to the fact that the ending of the war had lessened the immediate