

Letter Bk. I. weeks no Supply Bill is yet finished. They propose I hear to grant about £20,000 for the Support of 300 Men for the immediate Protection of the Frontier Inhabitants, but by all Accounts the Bill will contain so many exceptionable Clauses that there is not the least Probability of its passing the Upper House. The Money is I am told to be raised by a Tax on all Real & Personal Estates, on Offices, Professions, His Ldp's Quit Rents & Ecclesiastical Preferment. The Tax to be laid by Assessors appointed by certain Commissioners whom the People are to choose, & the Troops to be in fact under the Command of no Body but the Agents; to compleat the whole the Gentⁿ intend to empower their Agents to give any of our Indian Allies that may come & serve on our Frontiers such Presents & Rewards as they alone shall think proper; & to specify in the Bill at what particular Places any Troops that the Earl of Loudoun may order to this Province shall be quartered. What will be the Event & Issue of the Session I cannot certainly say but it is not I think very improbable that it will be left to me to garrison Fort Frederick & protect the Frontier Inhabitants during the Winter with three or four Companies of Militia, I have writ to Lord Loudoun & desired him to take such Measures as he shall think best for the Preservation of Fort Cumberland & if His Ldp will order a pretty strong Garrison thither I shall not be very anxious about the Assembly's Resolutions. As I am inclined to think that His Ldp will upon the Receipt of my Letter advise the Ministry of the Assembly's unaccountable Resolution to reduce our Troops & to grant no Supplies for the Support of any that may be ordered to Fort Cumberland I thought proper to send you the inclosed Account of what has passed between me & the Assembly with regard to that place. The Number of Men in Garrison there at this time is about 230. they are paid up to the 10th of Oct^r & as Col^o Stanwix has as well as myself ordered them up a Quantity of Provisions there is no fear of their abandoning that Place before His Ldp can send orders for other Troops to march thither. If the Parliament should in Consequence of the Earl of Loudoun's Representation take the Conduct of our Assembly as well as the Proceedings of a Neighbouring one under Consideration & Ease them of the Trouble of framing Supply Bills by making some for them, You will be pleased to remember that no Considerable Sums of Money (except what has arisen from the Duty on Tob^o) has been ever raised in this Province otherwise than by a Poll Tax, that as the People have been always accustomed to that Mode of Taxation they all prefer it to any other except some few Leading Men of the Assembly who desire nothing more than to throw things into Confusion

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