

May I not challenge you to say to the World if any Troops have arrived at, or any hostile Measures been proceeded in against, this Province, from any Request of mine, or Information from me, to the Secretary of State? I have above told you my Resolution of continuing in my Station, as long as permitted, or the ostensible Form of the established Government can contribute to preserve the Peace of the Province; and I will add one further Assurance, in hopes it may be satisfactory to you, that as your Convention is to meet shortly they shall find me here, and willing to continue acting in the same Line I have hitherto done, so long as Maryland can reap any peaceful Benefits from my Service, provided I can have Assurances that my peaceable departure shall not be impeded, whenever I find my remaining any longer here unnecessary, or that my private Affairs at home indispensably demand my Return:

Consistent with my Honour, and insulted Station, I cannot add more but that, if made a Prisoner, I shall consider myself treated as an Enemy, and such a proceeding as a Breach of that Confidence I have implicitly reposed in you, which I thought my Conduct, and the public Declaration of the Convention justified. I am Gentlemen with respect,

Your obed<sup>t</sup> humble Serv<sup>t</sup> Rob<sup>t</sup> Eden.

To Cha<sup>s</sup> Carroll Esq<sup>r</sup> Bar: John Hall Esq<sup>r</sup> & William Paca Esq<sup>r</sup>

C. S. C.  
No. 120.

[Council to Eden.]

Sir.

In Times of public Distress and Convulsion when a free People are threatened with a deprivation of their civil Liberty, Exertions for it's Preservation influenced by the purest Principles and conducted with all possible Attention to Form and Ceremony, we hope will not be considered as an Indignity or Insult to any Rank or Station in the Community. The Proceeding which your Excellency reprehends in your Letter addressed to Ch<sup>s</sup> Carroll, John Hall, & W<sup>m</sup> Paca Esq<sup>rs</sup> and communicated by them to our Board, arose from an Impression that we who are intrusted with the public Safety, should pursue with Vigilance every effectual Measure, tho' the Danger to be guarded against may rest only in Possibility. The intercepted Letters from Administration to your Excellency, we own, furnish Grounds for Conjecture and Apprehension only of your having held an injurious Correspondence; and whilst we reflect on the general Tenor of your Excellency's Conduct, the friendly Disposition you have often manifested and the several favorable and impartial Representations, you have