

the funds to be raised from license fees and fines to be imposed upon hawkers, pedlars and petty chapmen. The Upper House failed to concur on the ground that these fees and fines belonged to the Lord Proprietary "for the support of Government" and insisted upon substituting additional fees derived from licenses on ordinaries. A deadlock resulted, and Sharpe then prorogued the Assembly until May 1st, expressing his great disappointment that no action on this important matter had been taken, and his belief that events in the near future would convince the Lower House of the necessity for immediate action. The Lower House ordered that the rejected bill be printed in its proceedings as evidence of its desire to co-operate with the neighboring colonies in cultivating friendship with the Six Nations. Before adjourning, the Lower House found an opportunity to adopt, by a vote of 41 to 3, the report of its Committee on Grievances, action upon which had been deferred at the last session, in the form of an address to the Governor again calling his attention to the growth of Popery in the Province and the proselyting activities of the Jesuits and other Romanish priests, and urging that His Excellency have a care to appoint only loyal Protestants to office. No legislation of the least importance was transacted at this futile session, only two trivial acts becoming laws.

The fifth session of the Assembly elected in 1751 was opened May 8, 1754, with an address by Governor Sharpe. He again called attention to the further depredations and encroachments of the French upon the Ohio territory, which, he said, without question lay within the British dominions, and his conviction that these hostile acts should remove any doubts on the part of the Lower House that actual invasion had occurred, and convince them of the necessity of immediately assisting the Virginians and the neighboring colonies in an enterprise which they had already entered upon. He also urged the great importance of sending commissioners to the Albany Conference with the Six Nations to be held there in June. The Governor requested the Assembly to cooperate with Pennsylvania by passing a law, as that province had shown an inclination to do, for the punishment of persons who counterfeited the paper currency of other provinces. Prophetic of today was the Governor's suggestion that a remedy be found to reduce "the Excessive charge and burthen this Country is at present Subjected to by the great Increase of Pensioners in Several of Our Counties . . . as the distribution of the great Sums annually collected for the Relief of the poor, as it is now made, instead of being an Encouragement to and a reward for Industry proves too frequently an Incitement only to Debauchery and Idleness." He also recommended the "foundation of a more perfect and more publick Seminary of Learning in this Province; a Scheme, this, long Since put in Execution among our Neighbors to whom our youth are Still obliged, much to the Disadvantage and discredit of this