

bill, but suggested that in view of the precarious condition of the Province a "free compromise" on the bill be held by the two houses. The Lower House agreed to a conference with the reservation that it would refuse to confer on certain of the provisions of the bill. The Upper House rejoined that whether or not the Lower House refused to confer on the disputed points exempted from consideration by the latter, the Upper House reserved the right to act upon all these points as it saw fit; and appointed Philip Thomas and Col. Tasker as its members of the conference committee. The Lower House appointed Philip Hammond, Edward Tilghman, William Murdock, Matthew Tilghman, and Charles Carroll, the Barrister, as its conferees. Thomas Johnson, who was later to become the first Revolutionary Governor of Maryland, was appointed Clerk of the committee.

The bill as finally agreed upon at the conference was a distinct victory for the Lower House, which succeeded in retaining the disputed ordinary licences. Although this item was not discussed in the debates, it was retained by a blanket provision continuing in operation the levies in the Supply Bill passed in 1754 which included these licences. Another item, which probably was in part the basis of the opposition of the Upper House, was the provision taxing lands at one shilling for every hundred acres, including the Proprietary's manors and reserved lands, which was modified and retained. A compromise on this was agreed upon under which all the Proprietary manors were made subject to the tax but only the *leased* portions of his reserves. Agreement was also reached in regard to the method of later apportioning and fixing the land tax in case of a deficiency in the amount required for the sinking fund to be set aside as security for the bills of credit issued.

The act as finally passed on May 14th provided for the issue of bills of credit to the amount of £34,015-6-0, which, together with £5,984-14-0 bills then in the Loan Office unissued, amounted to the £40,000 called for by the Supply Bill. Of this amount not more than £11,000 was to be expended on a fort and four blockhouses on the western frontier to be located at a point not more distant than the North Mountain, and for arming, conveying, and supporting a force there of not over two hundred men. These men were to be raised by the payment of a bounty of twenty-two shillings sixpence each, or if this bounty were not sufficient to induce enlistment, the men were to be drafted. The time of service was to extend until February 10, 1757. This £11,000 was also to include the appropriations made by the two ordinances already passed providing for the support of the rangers now in service, and £3,000 for assistance to, and cultivation of friendship with the southern Indians, including the expenses of Col. Benjamin Tasker and Charles Carroll, the Commissioners to be sent to confer with them. There was also an allowance of £1,000 as a bounty on the