

A clash occurred between the two houses over the appropriations to defray certain expenditures of the Provincial government included in the Journal of Accounts, submitted by the Governor to both houses for approval. Of the six items struck out by the Lower House three related to matters of long-standing dispute. One item was an allowance of £100 annually for the rent of Col. Brice's house for the Governor's residence, the Lower House maintaining this amount excessive. Another item objected to was the allowance to the members of the Upper House when sitting as a Council of State, and the yearly salary allowed to John Ross, Clerk of the Upper House, when acting as Clerk of the Council. In the final compromise an allowance of £60 was made for the rent of the Governor's house. The Lower House refused to agree to any payments to the members of the Upper House while sitting as the Council, and although it agreed to allow the salary to Ross as Clerk for this year, declared that thereafter no further allowance for this purpose would be granted. The Journal was finally approved on May 17th.

Indian affairs occupied much of the attention of the Assembly. Indian outrages on the western frontier and the bounty offered for scalps of Indian enemies have already been referred to. On March 2d, the Governor replied to an inquiry from the Lower House as to what he had done to comply with General Shirley's request that a treaty of amity be concluded between Maryland and the adjoining colonies with the Catawba and Cherokee tribes of southern Indians. He suggested that the Commissioners be authorized to negotiate such a treaty, and to show by presents, appreciation of the Cherokees' contribution of one hundred warriors to the Virginia forces for the campaign against the hostile Shawanee towns. Sharpe on May 12th notified the Lower House that Governor Dinwiddie had written him that the Virginia Commissioners reported that these southern Indians would join with them if the Virginians built a suitable fort to protect their women and children, but if this were not done they would join the French, and that Virginia had recently appropriated £2,000 for the purpose. Sharpe then requested the Lower House to permit the money appropriated for presents to be used on the fort. The Lower House declared that the Supply Bill under consideration would contain a provision appropriating £1,500 for cultivating friendship with the Indians and therefore did not think it well to divert any of this money for the construction of the fort.

Various reservations had in the past been set aside in the Province for the use of friendly tribes of Indians, and according to law were to be occupied solely by them or by whites to whom the Indians might rent lands. It would appear that sundry whites, claiming that they had leased them from the Indians, had occupied lands on these reservations and then refused to pay rent. On October 18, 1755, the Indians of Locust Neck, Dorchester County, had petitioned the