

insisted that by that Word was meant the Boundary or Limits of the Province, or at least the most distant Part of it that had been settled before the War broke out, others alledged that by the Word Frontier was intended or pointed out, that Part of the Country where the Westernmost Plantations, which were then occupied, lay, and gave it as their Opinion, that if any of the Troops were posted at, or marched to, any Place beyond Fort Frederick, and not out of the Province, the Agents ought not to pay or victual them.

L. H. J.  
Liber No. 52  
April 23

As I was extremely anxious to avoid and remove every Thing that might possibly cause Misunderstandings, and become Occasion of Dispute afterwards between the Assembly and Myself, between the Officer that should be appointed to Command the Troops and the Agents, between the Agents and Myself, and in short between any Persons whatever that might be concerned with the said Troops, I intimated to one of the Agents, (who being a Member of the Lower House was then in Town) my Desire to speak with him, and upon his complying with my Request, I asked him, Whether he should think himself impowered by the Bill, which had then passed both Houses, to victual and pay any of the 500 Men that should be posted at Fort Cumberland, and whether he thought that Part of the Bill, which I was informed had been the Subject of Conversation and Dispute, was sufficiently clear and explicit? The Gentleman's Answer was to this Effect, That some Members of the House were of Opinion, that the Agents would be at Liberty to pay such Troops, while others said that the Bill vested them with no such Power; but that when the Bill was Enacted into a Law, he should be for taking Advice thereon. When I perceived that the Gentleman avoided giving a direct Answer to the Question I had asked him, I thought the only Way left for me to have the Matter cleared up, so that both the Agents and Myself might know the Sense of the House, was to send them a Message, which, with the Approbation of that Gentleman, I accordingly did in the following Words:

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"Gentlemen, As I observe that the Word Frontier frequently occurs in the Bill, entituled, An Act for his Majesty's Service, and the more immediate Defence and Protection of the Frontier Inhabitants of this Province, which has been Framed by you this Session, and having received the Concurrence of the Upper House, now lies for my Assent; and as it has been a Question, what Part of the Province is to be understood by that Word, I must desire you to give me your Sense of the Word, and particularly what Part of Maryland you designed by it in the following Clause of the abovementioned Bill; And be it further Enacted, that the said Five Hundred Men, or so many of them as shall be at any Time in the Pay of this Province, except such Number as may be necessary to be left at Fort Frederick, shall be employed in Ranging about the Frontier thereof, for the Quiet and Protection of the Inhabitants.