

pressure for funds to support a Provincial military force, and in part because the anti-Proprietary majority in the Lower House had dwindled to such a small margin that the popular leaders were fearful that the defeat of the bill in the lower chamber would be a severe blow to their prestige. These attempts by the Lower House over a period of five years to introduce a system of taxation new to the English-speaking world, an income tax levied upon the salaries or earnings of the larger office-holders and of the professional and mercantile classes and upon incomes derived from personal property, as well as taxes levied upon all land holdings, had been put forward and pressed by the popular party in the Lower House largely as a political measure. It was directed primarily against the Lord Proprietary himself as the largest landholder, and against the larger office-holders, with no real expectation, and even less wish, that it become a law, as too many of the members of the Lower House were themselves extensive landholders with large incomes, who would have been heavily taxed by its provisions. As an attack upon the prerogative of the Lord Proprietary it had more popular support than as a tax bill.

Other measures of a controversial character, which had been before recent assemblies, however, came up again at these two sessions, and still further increased the ill feeling between the Lower House on one hand and the Governor and Upper House as representing the Proprietary interest, on the other. Among these were bills to provide a support for a Provincial Agent in London to represent the people before the Crown, a perennial measure destined to successive rejections in the Upper House although warmly espoused by a great majority of all classes in the Province; the establishment of a college in Annapolis; the adoption of the Journal of Accounts to meet the ordinary Provincial expenses which included sundry items in controversy; and various other bills passed by the Lower House and rejected in the upper chamber appropriating for public purposes monies derived from licenses and fines claimed by the Proprietary. The most bitter contest involved the use of licenses from ordinaries or public houses. For nearly three-quarters of a century the disposition of the license money from ordinaries had been in dispute, the Proprietary claiming it under his prerogative, and the Lower House as the right of the public. It was not until 1766 that the Proprietary finally gave up his claim to it. The dispute as to the use of this license money, although the amount involved was never large, estimated at £600 annually in 1763, determined the attitude of the two houses towards much proposed legislation of importance. The Lower House also continued to assert its claim to the powers of the House of Commons in England. For a proper understanding of these and other Assembly controversies of the period they must be studied in connection with the light thrown upon them by such contemporary records as the *Correspondence of Governor Horatio Sharpe* (*Arch. Md.*, XXV),