

and asking that Maryland send representatives. The letter requested, that if Maryland agreed to this proposal, a notice be promptly sent to the Speaker (pp. 18-20).

On the second day of the session, the day after these letters from Massachusetts had been read, the Lower House unanimously resolved that three of its members be appointed "a committee" to attend the meeting in New York. The house then ordered that a message be dispatched by the Speaker to the committee of the Massachusetts house, then in New York, notifying it of the action of the Maryland Lower House. Colonel Edward Tilghman, William Murdock, and Thomas Ringgold were appointed as the Maryland representatives, and a committee of seven, headed by James Hollyday, and with him, Johnson, Key, John Goldsborough, Hammond, Wolstenholme, and Hanson, was appointed to draw up instructions for the guidance of the three representatives. In keeping with the importance and solemnity of the occasion it was ordered that the English Petition of Right and the Bill of Rights be read (pp. 21-22). The house then resolved that no other business would be considered at this session except that relating to the Stamp Act (p. 21). Two days later an attempt was made to expunge this order from the journal without success, the house voting 38 to 14 in the negative. Most of those voting to expunge were members of the Proprietary party (pp. 26-27).

On September 25 the committee, headed by James Hollyday, appointed to draw up instructions for the Maryland representatives, brought in its report. It advised that the three gentlemen selected repair immediately to the city of New York to join with the "representatives of the other Colonies in a General and United dutiful Loyal and humble Representation to his Majesty and the British Parliament of the Circumstances and Condition of the British Colonies and Plantations and to pray relief from the Burthens and Restraints lately laid on their Trade and Commerce and especially from the Taxes imposed by an Act of the last Session of Parliament Granting and Applying Certain Stamp Duties and other Duties in the British Colonies and Plantations in America Whereby they are Deprived in some Instances of that invaluable privilege of Englishmen and British Subjects Tryals by Juries that they take care that such Representation shall humbly and decently but expressly contain an Assertion of the Rights of the Colonists to be Exempt from all and every Taxations and Impositions upon their Persons and propertys to which they do not Consent in a legislative way either by themselves or their Representatives by them freely Chosen and Appointed" (pp. 22-23). The report of the committee on instructions was concurred in, ordered engrossed, and the next day signed by the Speaker (pp. 25-26).

On the same day that the Lower House had ordered that instructions be drawn up for the guidance of its representatives, the "House taking into Consideration the Many Grievances the Good People of this Province will Suffer if an Act passed in the last Session of Parliament of Great Britain for imposing Stamp Duties upon the Inhabitants of the several Colonies of America be Carried into Execution", ordered that a committee be appointed to "Draw up Resolves declarative of the Constitutional Rights and Privileges of the Free-