

ing a message proposing such a conference, citing "the distressed circumstances of the Province and the extreme necessity of many of the Creditors of the Public, occasioned in great Measure by the want of the circulating Medium of Commerce and by the non-payment of the public debt" (pp. 174-175). The Upper House agreed to a conference and appointed Daniel Dulany and John Ridout as its representatives, and adopted "Instructions" for their guidance. It proposed that an appeal be made to the King in Council by the two houses in the matter of the payment of the clerk's salary, either by an allowance of an equal amount to each house to prosecute the appeal, or without any allowance to either house, the sum claimed by the clerk to be held in escrow. The Upper House was willing for the present to pass over the payment of the Seals for Proclamations (pp. 107-109).

The Lower House appointed Murdock, Johnson, Ringgold, and John Hall as its conferees, these receiving the "Instructions" of that house. These declared that the house would not consider payment on account of the Proclamations by the Governor of the Acts of Parliament relating to the repeal of the Stamp Act as this might be later interpreted as an acquiescence in the claim that Parliament had a constitutional right to impose internal taxes on her colonies. While reiterating its demands that the Clerk of the Upper House be paid out of the fines and amerciaments that now went to the Lord Proprietary, on account of the "distressed circumstances of the Province", it suggested the issuance of Bills of Credit sufficient to pay the public debt and the Clerk's salary if the Crown so ordered, and a further allowance of £1500 to enable the Lower House to employ an Agent in London for three years (pp. 181, 182). The conferees met on November 19th and elected Daniel Dulany chairman, and John Duckett, Jr., Clerk of the committee. The Lower House agreed to accept the second proposal of the upper chamber, which was that the matter of the Clerk's salary be referred to the Crown (p. 183). This was followed by the introduction into the Lower House on November 26th of an act "for the payment of the public claims and for emitting Bills of Credit" (p. 191). After passage of this bill by the lower chamber it was sent to the Upper House to be followed by a message from it, suggesting various minor changes and simplifications of phraseology, and also that the agreements entered into between the two houses at the conference be briefly recited in the act. Of course, no attention whatever was paid by the upper chamber to the suggestion that £1500 be appropriated to provide for an agent in London. The Lower House in a curt return message, requested the upper chamber to return the bill with either an assent or a negative, as they did not recognize the right of that house to change or "limit the matter, manner, measure and time . . . of all Grants, and Dispositions of Public Money," the sole right to "form" all money bills being vested in the Lower House alone (p. 205). Before sending this message the house adopted a series of resolves, affirming in detail its exclusive right over money bills and declaring that any defects of another character in the bill could be rectified by subsequent legislation (pp. 204-205). The Upper House, in a temperate and conciliatory reply, noted with great concern and surprise that the lower chamber had taken offense at its message, and said that it had been