

of that right (pp. 362-363, 377, 393, 407-408). The upper chamber in their reply to this message four days later maintained that in many cases they had exercised what they considered their right to amend bills for the appropriation of public money. Accordingly, they denied the contention made by the lower body as to their exclusive rights in financial matters (pp. 364-365, 418-419).

Still another controversial subject upon which the two Houses could not agree was the bill for raising four pence on each hogshead of tobacco exported out of the province "for the Support of an Agent at London, for the Service of the Province" (pp. 24, 84, 259, 263). This bill failed to pass as it had during previous sessions of the Assembly (*Arch. Md.* LXI, x, xxiii, xxix, xxxix, xlvi, lxxv, lxxvi-lxxix; *ibid.* LIX, lvi-lvii). Because the Lower House would not agree to the amendments proposed by the Upper House to "An Act to Ease the Inhabitants of this Province in the Payment of Attorneys Fees," it never became a law (pp. 194, 200, 290, 303-304, 370, 427). For the same reason a bill "for enforcing the Payment of Public Monies" was not enacted (pp. 24, 28, 85, 92).

As the Lower House considered them sufficiently important to order that they should be printed in the *Maryland Gazette* two general bills introduced while the General Assembly was in session in 1769 and 1770 are reproduced in Appendix IX and X. One of the proposed laws was entitled "An Act to redress the Evil arising from the Variation of the Compass in surveying Lands." This bill was introduced at each session of the Assembly which met during 1769 and 1770. In addition to having this bill printed in the *Maryland Gazette*, the Delegates ordered copies of it printed and sent to the members of the Upper and Lower Houses of the Assembly. During the third and last session from November 5-21, 1770, it was referred to the next session of the General Assembly after that (pp. 45, 52, 74, 81, 261, 285, 289, 292, 299, 398). This question had come up for discussion at the May 24-June 22 session of the Assembly in 1768 (*Arch. Md.* LXI, xlix, xlix-xl).

The other bill was entitled "An Act for the more effectually preventing the buying and selling of Offices, and to prevent Simoniacal Contracts." This act was introduced during the session of the Assembly which met from September 25 to November 2, 1770. Amendments to the bill were proposed by the Upper House to which the Lower House would not agree. Despite the publicity each bill received by being published in the *Maryland Gazette*, neither was enacted before the Revolution (pp. 199, 202, 291, 296, 302-303, 306).

RELATING TO THE DIGNITY AND AUTHORITY OF THE LOWER HOUSE, 1769-1770

As the following incidents show the Lower House was very careful to uphold its dignity and authority as a legislative body. The first of such cases was involved in the passage of a bill entitled "An Act for appointing Places for holding the next Election of Delegates for Baltimore County." It appears that on December 1, 1769, John Paca and six other freeholders, of Baltimore County, petitioned the Upper House that on account of the smallpox prevailing in Baltimore Town, the Sheriff should hold the election of Delegates for that county at Joppa as well as at Baltimore Town.