

regularly.¹³⁶

Martin's politics probably interfered, during the first few weeks of his new venture, with the steady flow of news to his office. On May 22, Martin hinted that the Baltimore Post Office was not delivering mail as it should:

Yesterday, for the third time, we did not receive any papers per mail! What can all this mean? Has corruption and espionage crept into our federal establishments?¹³⁷

Sometimes the editor's difficulties took on a more violent aspect. Martin apparently suffered rather frequently from illness. He was recovering, late in August, from one of these attacks, and rode out for country air and business, stopping, on his way, at the Post Office. While receiving his mail, he was shoved violently aside by Lieutenant Heath of the Army, Lieutenant Philip Edwards of the Marines (former editor of the Maryland Journal), and two others, unnamed, all of whom threatened him for "publishing against the army." Edwards declared it was beneath him to strike a sick man, but Martin had insulted the standing army, (opposition to a standing army was at this time an important Republican issue¹³⁸) the Marines to which Edwards belonged was a standing army, and

¹³⁶ American. June 9, 1800.

¹³⁷ Ibid. May 22, 1800.

¹³⁸ Minor, A. The story of the Democratic party. p. 29, 31.