

of law enforcement officers of the State of Virginia, with relation to the enforcement of the laws which the two States had solemnly enacted in concurrent form.

Simply by way of citing one development in what could be a long bill of particulars, individual citizens residing in the tidewater counties of Virginia have equipped themselves with high speed motor boats with which they have dredged oysters from the choice rocks in the bed of the Potomac River. These citizens have even had the affrontery to complain when sworn law enforcement officers of the State of Maryland attempted to enforce these concurrent laws

In addition, it must be glaringly obvious that these and the many other open violations of the Potomac River laws could not have been committed for so many years without at least the tacit and open acquiescence of sworn police officers in the State of Virginia. The circumstances have spoken for themselves, and the patience of the State of Maryland is at an end; now, therefore

WHEREAS, THE STATE OF MARYLAND IS THE UNDISPUTED OWNER OF THE ENTIRE BED OF THE POTOMAC RIVER TO THE LOW WATER MARK ON THE VIRGINIA SHORE, AND

WHEREAS, IN THE YEAR 1785, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, BY CHAPTER 1 OF THE SESSION LAWS OF THAT YEAR, CONFIRMED A COMPACT ENTERED INTO BETWEEN THE STATES OF MARYLAND AND VIRGINIA IN THE YEAR 1785, AND THEREAFTER KNOWN AS THE COMPACT OF 1785, AND

WHEREAS, AT THE TIME OF THE PROMULGATION OF THIS COMPACT THERE WERE TWO MAIN ELEMENTS OF CONSIDERATION LEADING TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE STATE OF MARYLAND AND THE STATE OF VIRGINIA; VIRGINIA, ON HER PART, WOULD RELINQUISH ANY RIGHT TO CHARGE TOLLS FOR VESSELS GOING TO AND FROM MARYLAND AND PASSING THROUGH THE VIRGINIA CAPES; MARYLAND, ON HER PART, GRANTED UNTO THE CITIZENS OF VIRGINIA CERTAIN RIGHTS OF FISHING AND NAVIGATION IN THE WATERS OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY AND IN THE POTOMAC AND POCOMOKE RIVERS, AND

WHEREAS, BY THE SUBSEQUENT ADOPTION AND RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, IMPORTANT PARTS OF THE COMPACT OF 1785 WERE IMMEDIATELY SUPERSEDED AND WERE MADE OBSOLETE, SINCE THOSE ARTICLES OF THE COMPACT HAVING TO DO WITH MARITIME MATTERS AND WITH INTERSTATE TRADE CONCERNED AREAS OF JURISDICTION WHICH WERE GIVEN TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND HENCE FORTH WERE BEYOND THE POWERS OF THE INDIVIDUAL STATES, AND

WHEREAS, FOR OVER ONE HUNDRED YEARS THE STATE OF VIRGINIA HAS RECOGNIZED THAT THESE PARTS OF THE COMPACT HAVE BEEN SUPERSEDED BY THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AND AS FAR BACK AS THE YEAR