

the Protection of the Inhabitants of that Service against the growing Inconvenience
of the French they should as readily acquiesce in parting with some of their indentured
servants, as any other Colony doth.

It is not necessary to enter into a minute Examination of every Part of the Deduction
made by the Assembly of the mischievous Consequences, which arise to the Community
from enlisting indentured servants into his Majesty's Service; some of them seem too
remote: when a Country is in Danger of being lost to the Enemy it is not a time for
the Government of it, to enter into critical dissertations whether the enlisting of
indentured servants for the Defence of it may not have a Tendency to lessen the
Importation of them into the Country for future Allage of the Land, and to increase
that of Slaves; It would certainly have been more happy for the Service of
Pennsylvania to have lost the Service of some of their bought servants last Year
in defending their Frontiers against the Incursions of the Enemy than to have
suffered the cruel Ravages and Depopulation committed by them within their
Borders.

I have already acknowledged that all Conveniences and Hardships frequently arise to
Individuals from their enlisting indentured servants into the Kings Regiments; I am
as ready now as ever to do every thing in my Power consistent with his Majesty's Service
to remedy such as have happened, or may hereafter happen in the Province of Pennsylvania
or elsewhere. His Majesty hath ordered his Regiments employed in North America
for the Defence of his just Rights and Dominions and Protection of his Subjects
there to be forthwith augmented to 1000. Men each, out of such of the Inhabitants of
these Colonies as will enlist into his Service, he hath an undoubted Right to do this.
If it can't be done without receiving indentured servants into the Regiments, to forbid
the Entertainment of them or order them to be discharged by without being replaced by
other effective Men would very probably defeat the Service for which the Regiments were
ordered by his Majesty to be augmented; which the Assembly I am persuaded will
upon further Consideration think would be a most unaccountable Proceeding in the
Kings General: The only Order I can justify sending the Officers upon this occasion,
which I shall take care to do, will be to release such indentured servants as are willing
to return to their Masters upon having good effective Men offered in Exchange for
them; as to receiving them at first into the Service in cases which shall appear
extremely hard to the Officers, they are at liberty to refuse it, and will I doubt not act
with discretion: the Intention of my last Order was only to take off the Restrains I had
before laid upon them against receiving any indentured servants which I should
not have done if the Regiments had met with that success in their recruiting as might
have been expected: It must rest with the Assembly to ease such Masters, as may