

Quota of militia required by the President of the United States than by calling on the Major Generals, Brigadiers and Commanders of Regiments in the most earnest manner to have their Returns completed and sent to the proper officer to whom by orders they are directed to make them by a certain date and also directing each officer to report to the Commander in Chief and the Executive, the name and Rank of all officers who may either refuse or neglect to comply with the orders that have been issued for that purpose. I am clearly of opinion that all the arms in possession of the State and now at Annapolis ought to be put in complete repair as soon as possible.

John Davidson

On the Instructions submitted by the Governor I give my opinion as follows.

On the first my opinion is that a further application should be made by the Executive for the loss of the arms on the Western Expedition.

Secondly I am of opinion that as the Instructions heretofore made to the Major Generals to make Returns of the Militia in their Divisions and also the directions to them for a speedy compliance of the Requisition of the President have only been completed by General Forrest, that at this time other Measures ought to be pursued to expedite and complete the business: I am induced to believe that in some degree the cause of their non compliance proceeded from no compensation being allowed for their services or even the Expenses that must necessarily accrue and that to a very considerable degree if the Act of Congress and the Requisition of the President are carried into full effect. I therefore think that a bare renewal of letters would be inadequate, and as the Adjutant General has offered his services to wait on General Winde, and to communicate with him and also by letter with General Smith now in Congress on what measures are most advisable to be taken to effectuate the Act of Congress and the Presidents Requisition; I think it ought to be accepted. Viewing it at this interesting period as an object of the greatest magnitude to have the Militia speedily in readiness, I have no doubt on my mind (notwithstanding the high opinion which I entertain of the Major Generals and other officers of the Militia) but that the services of the Adjutant General will from his long experience as an officer and his firm attachment to his Country be of great utility in the contemplated object.

Thirdly I am of opinion that a reparation of the arms that shall be collected by the orders that were issued by the Commander in Chief and also those now in the possession of the State which upon examination shall be found defective.

James Thomas