

Representatives in Congress, and to the Governors of the several States to be laid before Congress and the different Legislatures of the Union.

The Committee recommended the adoption of the resolution "with the intent mainly of proclaiming to the people of this State, that their representatives in the General Assembly are unwilling to concur with the Executive in the surrender of claims which our forefathers asserted and maintained in the darkest period of the struggle by which that claim was established."

They proclaim to the people of this State, to the Legislature of other States and to Congress, their "ignorance of any constitutional rule imposing on his Excellency the duty of forestalling legislative action upon a claim of infinite importance to the State, by denying in his Executive capacity the justice of such claim and impairing the power with which it might be prosecuted by division between two Departments of the State Government—" and express "the surprise with which they listened to his communication, so far as it relates to the subject committed to them."

In reference to my improper interference with this subject, the committee further remark that, "in our present exigencies, his Excellency might have permitted that Department of the State to which its financial interests are entrusted, to act upon any subject connected with those interests, unobstructed by volunteer opposition from the Executive, even if it were forbid to rely upon its efficient aid."

The committee then speak of "the extraordinary position of the Executive of the State" and after describing the manly course of our forefathers in relation to the same subject, remark that they "may be permitted here the contrast Maryland now presents to the truth, firmness and pride of her position then." According to the indecation of the committee, my message has placed the State in a position of falsehood, weakness and shame, which qualities would be generally understood as forming a contrast to truth, firmness and pride.

The committee after representing the Treasury of the State as "almost exhausted and her general revenues as inadequate to the maintenance of her public faith," pursue their main intent by declaring, that they "find her chief Executive officer abandoning a right sustained in the midst of a calamitous war, and volunteering the opinion, that the assertion of it in the only practicable mode, would be a violation of the constitution of the United States. Without presuming to question the sincerity of this opinion, your committee would repeat their regret, that uncalled for by any constitutional obligation, his Excellency should have deemed it necessary while depicting in the darkest and most somber hues, our State distresses and difficulties, (from relief from which he suggests no remedy) to deny a right of essential importance, and so consecrated in our memories, by our deep respect for the firmness, dignity and wisdom of our forefathers."

Towards the conclusion of their report "deep concern for the best interests and the honor of the State of Maryland—both of which they confidently believe would be seriously affected by a departure from the high ground which her convention and several Legislatures have proudly occupied in relation to the Public Lands. She have felt too deeply the sacrifice of State pride and State policy, involved in the principles promulgated in the communication of his Excellency, to permit it to go forth to the world with the sanction which the silence of this Legislature would give it. It has been to your committee, a matter of