

In Council Annapolis 26th Jan^y 1779

Mr. Griest represents to us that very soon after his Appointment as Quarter Master, which was about the last of August 1777, he purchased a considerable Quantity of Corn for the Use of this State, that a Part of it remaining on Hand unsold, he got Mr. Welsh to retail it out in small Quantities to the People who were in great Want of it; that some Proceeding has been carried on against him and Mr. Welsh as Engrossers of this Corn and that in consequence of it the Corn was delivered to you by Order of the Justices and part of it has been taken for the Use of the Continent, that afterwards you returned the Key to Mr. Welsh who has sold out what remained to the needy Inhabitants and that both Mr. Griest and Mr. Welsh are to be bound over on account of this Matter to the General Court. We do not know whether the Fact is as represented or not that is, whether the Corn seized is Part of that purchased for the Use of the State but we presume, if the Fact is so and you have any Doubt of the Truth of it, it may be easily proved; and if the Fact is so, we think this Corn was not within the Engrossing Act, nor was there any Necessity it should have been an Object of it. The Purchases made by either Continental or State Agents for the Public Use, is declared not to be engrossing and, by the Act, those Things only which are engrossed are seizable. The State, indeed had no particular Use for the Corn in its Situation and, had it been proposed to us, we should have directed the Sale of it much in the Manner it is represented to have been done or if its being there had been mentioned to us and your Desire to have it, we should have ordered it into your Hands, either Application would have been agreeable to us. If you have no Doubt of the Corn belonging to the State, or Mr. Griest should prove it satisfactorily, we apprehend there will not need any Trouble about it, but that you'll pay the Price you generally give for that Part of the Corn you have had for the Continent, and Mr. Griest will give the State Credit for it; and if the Justices should be of Opinion they must bind Mr. Griest and Mr. Welsh over, the Prosecution may be stopped by the Government

We are &c

James Calhoun Esq^r }
Baltimore }

In Council 27th January 1779

Sir. Major Howard has the Charge of a considerable sum of Public Money for Lamp; it was put into his Hands for a safe conveyance, he then having a Detachment with him, but his Detachment is gone forward; if he is not gone we request you to send with him one of the Masts Officers and a Sergeant armed to proceed with him to Lamp or to Philadelphia only, as Major Howard may judge proper, for we think it imprudent to risk the Money with a single Person. You will take a Sergeant who can be depended on, and let their Business be as little known as may be.

Maj^r Nathl. Smith }
Baltimore }

We are &c

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