

396. ~~What is the Rate of these Emissions~~ which can be drawn into the  
Public Treasury (some) enough to be delivered in by the first Day of  
June, should be disposed of in the same Manner; we request you to  
consider this Subject and, if you think proper, to make a suitable  
Provision. Considerable Sums of Money were issued out of the Treasury  
in the Months of December and January, some in Payment of public  
Debts others to be expended in the Purchase of Provisions for the  
State and large Sums were sent to Genl. Smallwood for the Presents  
to the Maryland Officers and to pay the State Bounty to the nine  
Months Men who re-embarked; these Sums were delivered out, partly,  
of the Emissions of May 1777 and April 1778. Genl. Smallwood's letter  
which was laid before you at the Opening of this Session shews  
that the Bills sent to him of the Emissions called in, will not  
answer the designed Purposes and we have had frequent Applications  
to exchange the Bills of these Emissions issued out of the Treasury  
for other of the Purposes mentioned above. In some Instances, from  
the Hardship of the Case of the Holders, we were strongly inclined to  
have ordered the Exchange if we could, with Propriety have done so.  
We request your Direction in this Matter without which, we cannot  
give a decisive Answer to Genl. Smallwood's Letter or the Applications  
which have been or may be made for an Exchange.

Genl. Assembly.

In Council Annapolis 22<sup>d</sup>. March 1779

Sir:

397. We are informed by M<sup>r</sup>. Fassit that four British Prisoners of a Vessel  
lately retaken, are in Worcester probably yet under Guard; it is supposed  
some of them may in all Likelihood be wanted as Witnesses in the  
Court of Admiralty: we request you to send them to Baltimore, the  
least expensive Way you can; perhaps sending over one or two in  
a Vessel, as Opportunity may offer, would be best, but we  
leave that to yourself.

We are &c.

Joseph Bastick Esq.

In Council Annapolis 26<sup>th</sup>. March 1779.

Genl.

398. We inclose you a Copy of the Act passed by the Assembly to assist  
in procuring Flour for the Army: you will see by it that we are  
immediately to appoint one or more in each County to purchase and  
that if it should appear to us absolutely necessary, and not otherwise,  
we are to empower the Purchasers to seize Flour &c. the Price is  
not limited. We shall immediately make the appointments, but  
it is highly proper that we should be ascertained of the Necessity  
of exerting this extraordinary Power which is left in us. We have  
understood, though not from such Authority as we can depend on,