

Council Annapolis 5<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1779

Sir. Mr. John Randall, our State Cloathier, goes to Alexandria to see if any Soldiers  
Cloath, Hats, Stockings or Blankets can be picked up there for our Troops. We  
shall be obliged to you for your Advice and Assistance to him, if he is able to do any  
Business, the Genl. with whom he may contract may be assured of having the Money  
immediately sent and we shall be still more obliged that you will make yourself  
responsible if necessary. We are &c.

Col. Broce.

In Council Annapolis 5<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1779.

Sir. Since the Receipt of your Letter of the 30<sup>th</sup> we have received one from Col. Blaine  
dated the 20<sup>th</sup> last, he strongly mentions to us the increased Demand for Flour and his  
bad Prospects in Pennsylvania, he concludes with saying "My Expectation of  
Flour from Maryland is very great, and have wrote the Purchasing Agents in the  
most pressing Terms, to procure all they possibly can and forward it without Delay  
I beg your Excellency and Council to give them every possible Assistance". There seems  
to be no Prospect of an End to your Embarrassments in purchasing with Money  
since Philadelphia has broke loose and the Expectation of the Embargo being  
taken off in Pennsylvania has spread itself, there can be no Hope of purchasing  
at the limited Prices. We wrote Mr. Smith last Sunday, which we presume he  
has communicated to you, advising that the Continental and, if any, the French  
Salt should be immediately exchanged for Wheat and Flour. On further considering  
the Matter in all its Consequences, we are satisfied tis the best if not the only  
Resource that is left, adequate in any Degree to the present pressing Emergency;  
we are confirmed in this Opinion by Conversations with several People and  
especially with a Gent. from Hartford who says he is satisfied that in three  
Days you might have lodged at the Mills at Bush Tavern, two Pounds of  
good Wheat for every Pound of Salt you have at Otter Point to be delivered  
there on the Receipts for the Wheat at the Mills being produced. An Exchange  
on such Terms, or what would be equal in Flour, 8000 of your 10,000 Bushels  
of Salt would throw more into your Hands in three Weeks than you will  
probably purchase at any Price in three Months. In Conversation Yesterday  
with Mr. Plater, he informs us that he was some Time ago advised by Mr.  
Gov. Morris that they had come to a Resolution of exchanging the  
surplus Continental Salt for Wheat and Flour and thinks it a bare Omission  
that Orders have not been given accordingly. It is of so much Consequence  
to procure Flour, that we request you will exchange immediately all you  
can, reserving about 2000 Bushels of Salt and writing immediately to  
the Committee on the Commissary and Quartermaster General's Department  
to countermand or approve; there is no Time to be lost, and for what is  
done before you have Instructions, we are willing to be considered as res-  
ponsible. We wish the Salt to go into as many Hands as possible, as it may  
tend to keep down the Price of that Article with which Sellers seem  
willing to measure the Price of Wheat they have to dispose of. We  
cannot furnish a Galley to lie below the Tavern, we believe if we could  
have one in each River in the State, we could not prevent small Quan-  
tities of Wheat and Flour going to Virginia.

We are &c.

Robert Buchanan Esq.