

efficacious, would have been used to extricate them. We are exceedingly  
that you should esteem the Seizure of the Flour allowed to be purchased  
N<sup>o</sup> 86. our Ally a Violation of our Engagement when the pressing Wants of the  
Army urged the General Assembly to it and when too we informed your Ex<sup>ty</sup>  
that it would not be used, if those Wants could be otherwise relieved, but  
that it should be restored to Mr Smith and Permission given for the  
Exportation of it as soon as Congress or His Excellency Gen<sup>l</sup> Washington  
assured us that the Distresses of the Army ceased to be alarming. It  
gives us Pain to repeat the Information we communicated in our last, that  
our Power is so circumscribed and limited, that we cannot, without com-  
mitting a manifest Infringement of our Constitution and acting inconsistently  
with the Trust delegated to us, suspend the Law, until we have Assurance  
from Congress or General Washington, that the Army is supplied. The Recom-  
mendation of Congress, to restore the Flour, has been received, but that cannot  
give us Authority to do it: because, at the same Time, we were informed by them  
that the Wants of the Army were pressing and require immediate Relief.  
No Inconveniences have, as yet, we apprehend, have arisen from the Seizure,  
and as the Obstruction to the Navigation still remains, we flatter ourselves  
it will be in our Power to obviate any; to that End, as well as with a  
View of removing every Cause of Uneasiness or Disquiet, we have called a Meeting  
of the General Assembly the second Day of March next in Order to submit to  
their Consideration, your Excellency's Letters and the whole Proceedings of the  
Commissioners, and we have no Doubt but that the Result of their Deliberations  
will be highly satisfactory to your Excellency. We cannot refrain from  
expressing our Disapprobation of the Conduct of Mr Smith, in resisting  
the Officers appointed to carry the Law into Execution. Whatever his Sentiments  
might be respecting the Propriety of it, we think, an Attempt in  
any Individual to trample on the Authority of the State and to frustrate  
its Acts, ought not to escape without Repraff. It is not in our Power  
at this Time to point out any Species of Misconduct in Mr Smith, or  
others employed under him in the Purchase of Flour and Wheat, but as  
soon as we make any Discovery of male Practices, we shall impart them  
that your Excellency may take proper Precautions to prevent a Repetition

His Excellency

We are &c

The Chev<sup>r</sup> Delabuzorne.

In Council Annapolis 18<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>r</sup> 1780

Gentlemen:

In the Execution of the Law to procure an immediate Supply of Flour, we  
have been embarrassed, but nothing has given us more Uneasiness than the  
Idea that the Conduct of our State, in seizing the French Flour, may, possibly,  
be imputed to some Motive different from that of relieving the alarming  
87. Distresses of the Army, which has rendered us the more desirous that you  
should converse with the Minister of France and explain the whole of  
this Business. We would have him convinced of our firm Attachment  
to the Alliance, our Desire to promote the Interest of France and facilitate  
the Operation of their Fleets and Armies, and to supply them with the  
Means of Subsistence; and that Nothing but the most urgent and  
pressing Necessity could have constrained us to subject the French  
to Seizure; that we wish to have, from Congress, or His Excellency, that the  
Army is supplied, on which Event, we shall immediately suspend the