

From every information I have casually received respecting these persons, I am inclined to believe that their views are pacific and lawful; and of course that their detention would not be proper. But as I am not in possession of any authentic intelligence upon this subject, I take the liberty of requesting that you will be good enough to make such an enquiry as may lead to a full knowledge of their intentions, and forward the result to me if practicable by the Boatsman whom I have sent express, and whom I have directed to wait for your answer.

I am Sir, &c

Wm H Williams Esquire  
Collector at Baltimore.

Thos Lee

Council Chamber, Annapolis, December 6<sup>th</sup>  
1793

Sir,  
In answer to your letter of the instant, it is proper to inform you that the British Vice Consul was made a party to the examinations now carrying on at Baltimore respecting the Brig Cunningham and the Privateer Schooner Industry, because it was conceived that his agency was likely to procure a full enquiry, and because he is the representative of the nation affected by the acts relative to which the examinations have been instituted. Upon the same ground you have been made a party to these proceedings, as the representative of the French Republic; and the Attorney of the United States for this district has been called on to afford his superintendance on behalf of the United States.

It is both unnecessary and improper for me at this time to determine what witnesses are competent or incompetent to give testimony upon these subjects: if men who are interested are produced by the British Vice Consul, it is extremely easy to prove that they are so, by calling upon them to disclose their situation or establishing their interest by other evidence; and under the circumstances thus disclosed the credit due to their depositions can hereafter be decided.

I presume that as these enquiries are conducted under the direction of the Chief Justice of the General Court and the United States Attorney, they will be managed with fairness and propriety, that even if it should happen that testimony is taken to which no attention ought to be paid it will have no ~~more~~ weight in the determination to be given.