

Annapolis September 4<sup>th</sup> 1794

Sir

I regret sincerely the occurrence of the difficulty stated in your last letter relative to the furnishing of substitutes for Drafts. I cannot suppose that the Field Officer is under any legal obligation to advance his own money for this object, altho the Act makes it his duty to procure the Substitute in the first instance, such a construction would be unreasonable and oppressive and not being a necessary one, would I think be unwarrantable. I should take the Intention of the Law to be that the Field Officer is if possible to provide a substitute by means of a contract to pay the money stipulated for out of the sales of the property of the Draft. That this mode will not be effectual, is much to be apprehended, but I see no expedient by which its Inefficiency can be aided. I can only rely on the Field Officers to make use of every practicable exertion to remedy the obvious Incompetency of this Provision, and not to permit the Nature of the means afforded them to diminish their efforts in accomplishing the ultimate arrangement.

Lieut Colonel  
Joseph Wilkinson

I am &c  
Thos. S. Lee

Annapolis September 4<sup>th</sup> 1794

Sir

I have received your letter of the 30<sup>th</sup> August and find it difficult to point out any legal means of preventing the Draughted men from secreting themselves, as the communications I have received from the Federal Executive do not authorize me to collect the men held for service. I would however recommend that where there shall be reasonable grounds to suspect any individual of such a Design, you should apply to the nearest limits and that you should instruct the inferior officers appointed for this service to see your directions obeyed. If this is not sufficient, I should advise you to collect your men to the most convenient spots of rendezvous and place them under the care of an Officer as your situation. The infantry will receive arms and accoutrements at Fort Mifflin, and I have written to the Secretary of the Treasury drawing there a number of Swords and Pistols &c which he will send to General Arnold at Baltimore to be distributed to such Cavalry & Militia as may