

Council Chamber September 13. 1794

Sir

I have received Intelligence of a most alarming Nature from General Bayley, Colonel Sprigg and others, relative to the Spirit of Disorder now existing in Washington and Allegany and actual Riots and Disturbances that have taken place in consequence. It is represented that Combinations inimical to the Measures of Government are every day gaining Accessions of Strength - that the Declarations the Conduct and the Views of these turbulent Men are of the most licentious and daring Nature - that they have established a correspondence and connected themselves with the Insurgents of Pennsylvania - that they have refused to submit to the Draft prescribed by the Orders of the Commander in Chief, or in any manner to aid the Object of the President. that they have supported this Refusal by a show of Force, and in some Instances by the actual use of it. that they have erected Liberty Poles at various places and guarded them by armed Bodies of Men - that they are endeavouring to collect in sufficient force for the purpose of attacking and plundering the public Armory and Magazine at Frederick Town - and that in short every thing wears the aspect of Confusion and Danger -

I had already provided, as far as former Accounts had suggested the Necessity, against the Spirit above described. by ordering a Captain's Guard for the security of the Armory and Magazine - by putting arms into the Hands of the well affected Militia in and about Frederick Town - and by ordering two Hundred Stand of arms &c. into Allegany to be distributed by Major Lynn among such of the Militia in that County as could be safely relied on

These Precautions I am apprehensive are very far from being adequate to their Object in the present Situation of Affairs - and as a late Letter from the War Office counts upon the most efficient Measures on my Part for guarding against the possible Effects of the above Disturbances (a partial Account of which had reached the President) and as it is certainly of the last Importance that under Circumstances so peculiarly emergent prompt and decisive Steps should be pursued. it is obvious that a strong Body of Troops ought to be immediately marched to be stationed at Frederick Town, under a prudent intelligent Officer to act as occasion may require -