

cation from the State's Attorney, or other sources. But, in ordinary cases of crime, which are of frequent occurrence throughout the State, the Governor could not undertake, without solicitation, to appoint Counsel. If he did, it would be difficult to discriminate between an hundred cases. Such cases must be left to the Constitution, which has directed the election of State Attorneys, and which presumes that the people have elected competent officers. To establish a contrary precedent in one case, & disregard it in others, would be to bring Executive impartiality under suspicion, and thus impair the force of public justice. In the case of Swann, recently tried at Cumberland, an application in writing was made by the State Attorney; and the Governor gave him the aid asked for. The State Attorney for Queen Anne's has not applied. <sup>to the same effect</sup> The Governor would have unhesitatingly complied with the request; and, in that event, he would have selected the State Attorney for Talbot County, as assistant prosecutor; he had already determined on that, in daily expectation of an application from the State Attorney of Queen Anne's. The Governor cannot, however, upon the application of six citizens, even when as respectable and worthy of his consideration as you are, act in such a case, without establishing a bad precedent. For, in almost every case, which is likely to occur, a half dozen may be found to make a similar application. But, had the citizens of Talbot, ~~and~~ generally united in the application, the Governor would have felt justified in gratifying such an expression of public opinion. Ample time existed, and yet no such application, either from the State Attorney of Queen Anne's, or the citizens at large has been made, and the Governor, therefore, feels compelled for reasons of public policy, to decline your request, which he does with the greatest respect.

Very Respectfully  
 Your Obedt. Servant

J. Randolph Quinn,  
 Acting Secy of State