

Our end your appeal is now made to our constituents. We are both bound by what they shall determine. If the people think the right of seizing and confiscating British property is not justified by the law of nature and nations; if they should determine that policy forbids the exercise of the right at that time; or if they should be of opinion, that they can pay, by taxes, \$4,000,000 dollars, in nine months, or if unable they would prefer the sale of their own property before that of their enemies, this house will comply with their desire; but if they should coincide with us in opinion, we flatter ourselves your honour will not oppose the voice of your country, and stand between them and their enemies, and protect their property from sale, to assist us in prosecuting the war.

As our constituents will have time to express their sentiments, and to give their instructions before the first day of March next, this house intend to adjourn to that day.

By order,

J. DUCKETT, cl. ho. del.

Which was read and agreed to, and ordered to be engrossed.

The following engrossed instructions to the delegates in congress:

INSTRUCTIONS of the **GENERAL ASSEMBLY** of MARYLAND, to the honourable Thomas Johnson, George Plater, James Forbes, John Hall, Edward Lloyd, and John Hanson, Esquires.

GENTLEMEN,

THE general assembly of the state of Maryland have appointed you, or any two or more of you, to represent this state in congress for the ensuing year, and do instruct you to repair to the city of Philadelphia, or any other place to which congress may adjourn, there to consult, advise, direct, and order, such measures as shall appear best calculated for the establishment of the rights, liberties and independence, of this state, and of the United States of America; and you, or any two or more of you, are hereby invested with full powers, in conjunction with the other states, to prosecute the war, conclude peace or truce, form alliances, or enter into commercial treaties, and generally to do and transact all and whatsoever delegates to congress may by the constitution of this state be empowered or entrusted to do or transact.

We have no particular instructions to give; only with regard to the confederation, we instruct and require you to govern yourselves in all points relative thereto by the instructions heretofore given to the delegates to congress from this state, at October session, 1778.

The events of the last campaign, the number of continental troops employed on western expeditions, and the great injustice of burdening this state for the sole and exclusive advantage of others, induce us to be of opinion, that congress will interfere, and not suffer that immense tract of country to be appropriated to the emolument of particular states. And we are clear in our opinion, that those states will find in a few years, that they are grasping at a dominion they cannot hold.

Sent to the senate by Mr. W. Stevenson and Mr. Wootton.

On motion, ORDERED, That 200 copies of the messages between the two houses, respecting the confiscation of British property, be immediately printed.

ORDERED, That 1800 copies of that part of the assessment bill which directs the assessment of money and plate, and the time appointed for the meeting of the commissioners, be immediately printed; and that the same be also printed in the Maryland gazette and Baltimore advertizer.

Matthew Tilghman, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the instructions to the delegates in congress, thus endorsed; "By the senate, December 30, 1779: Read and assented to."

"By order,

H. RIDGELY, cl. ho. del.

The bill to encrease the allowance of magistrates and jurymen, and the bill to encrease the allowances to witnesses and the fees of constables, severally read the second time, passed, and sent to the senate by Mr. Stricker and Mr. Norris.

Mr. Key brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker a bill, entitled, An act for the special appointment of inspectors, and to encrease their salaries and the warehouse rent; which was read the first and second time by especial order, passed, and sent to the senate, with the engrossed bill No. 38, by Mr. Archer and Mr. Beatty.

The engrossed bill, No. 37, sent to the senate, with the paper bill thereof, by Mr. Johnson and Mr. M. Comas.

RESOLVED, That each delegate to congress be allowed at the rate of two hundred and forty five pounds per week, for the time he is at congress, or travelling to or from congress, in full for his expences. Sent to the senate by Mr. B. Hall and Mr. Dennis.

Charles Carroll of Carrollton, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the bill to encrease the allowance of witnesses and the fees to constables; and the bill to encrease the allowance of justices of the peace and jurymen, severally endorsed; "By the senate, December 30, 1779: Read the first and second time by especial order and will pass."

"By order,

H. RIDGELY, cl. ho. del.

Which were ordered to be engrossed.

The message to the senate respecting confiscation, &c. sent to the senate by Mr. Sprigg and Mr. Birkhead.

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