

The usual six committees were appointed: Four consisting of five members and two of seven. Seven members served on two committees and some were appointed on no committee at all.

The Resolutions of 1725 were spread upon the Journal, which had not been done in the two previous Assemblies. Question was immediately raised as to whether the meeting of 1738 had been a Session or not. As soon as the Governor's address was delivered, the answer proposed to be made aroused discussion and led to three divisions—the first ever recorded upon such a subject. In all of these, the anti-Proprietary Party won by votes of 31 to 9, 31 to 10, and 32 to 9. The consistent Proprietarians were Harris and Hynson of Kent, Dulany and Gordon of Annapolis, Colville and George of Cecil. To these Calder of Kent, Thomas of Talbot, Henry and Gale of Somerset added themselves in two divisions and Goldsborough of Talbot and Aisquith of St. Mary's in one division. All but the Annapolis delegates and Aisquith came from the Eastern Shore and no full County delegation voted against the country party. The answer was truculent in tone, turgid in rhetoric, full of sound and fury, and careless in statement—for example, speaking of the Lower House as if it were a continuous body, Ogle answered it with force and dignity, calling attention to the extravagance of statements.

When it was decided to bring in a fee bill, the anti-Proprietary Party, by a vote of 29 to 9, carried the payment of the fees in tobacco instead of in money. Those who voted for payment in money were Wilson, Harris, Calder and Hynson of Kent, Gassaway of Anne Arundel, Thomas of Talbot, George of Cecil, and Dulany and Gordon of Annapolis. Curiously, all but the Annapolis men and Gassaway were from the Eastern Shore and the Kent County delegation stood unanimously for money payment.

The next division occurred upon the question of bringing in a new Assize Bill, upon which the vote was 28 for and 15 against. In general, the Proprietary Party voted in the negative, but there were some exceptions.

The Lower House was eager to seize upon instances of malfeasance in office. They had discovered in 1738, what appeared to be a genuine grievance in Dorchester County, but their additional muck-raking, at this time, revealed only one additional instance of alleged misconduct—an extortion of two pence halfpenny in Prince George's County! On May 16, two divisions took place, in which amendments made by the Upper House to bills were approved by votes 33 to 11 and 32 to 12, respectively. The two negative votes included the whole Prince George's delegation. I can find no particular significance to many of the votes, though of course, the Proprietary Party voted in the affirmative.

On May 18, the House, by vote of 18 to 21, decided not to allow the Sheriff of Talbot County anything for expenses in hiring a guard to prevent William