

chase 3000 Barrels of Flour to be exported to some of the Spanish Colonies in the West Indies. We have complied with the Recommendation of Congress & given Permission to M^r William Smith of Baltimore Town, the Agent appointed by M^r Morris who is entrusted by the Minister, with the Management of this Business to purchase the Quantity above Specified. This Permission interferes with the Mode chalked out by the Legislature to obtain Supplies for the Continental Army and, we are apprehensive, will procrastinate the Procurement of them, 'til that Quantity is furnished and expose us to the Artifices and subtle Contrivances of Engrossers and other designing Men, whose Attention to the Public Purchases and inordinate Love of Gain will prompt them to buy up the Wheat and Flour to sell to the public Purchasers whereby the present Prices (far from being moderate) will be greatly augmented. Our earnest Desire to give every Assistance to render the Military Operations in the West Indies effectual and Deference for the Opinion of Congress and Minister of France determined us to give the Permission and hazard the Inconveniences already suggested. We cannot refrain from intimating to Congress, that, if this State should fail in supplying their Quota of Flour for the Continental Army and the French Marine, such Failure cannot, justly, be ascribed to Inefficacy in our Laws, or want of Exertion in this Board, but to Inability arising from our gratifying the numerous Demands, unexpectedly made, on this State.

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[Council to Capt. Peter Clarke]

Sir By the late Acts of Assembly to procure Troops, your Case is not considered and, though there may be a Hardship in your being compelled to contribute your Quota, to procure a Substitute; yet we cannot see how it is to be avoided, as you are neither expressly nor impliedly exempted by the Laws.

[Council to Delegates in Congress]

Gent. We have enclosed you a Copy of a Letter from the Baron DeKalb, addressed to this Board. He represents the Maryland Division to be in great Distress for want of Provisions, the scarcity of which will prevent them from approaching nearer the Enemy's Lines, unless proper Measures are taken to supply them. We esteem it necessary that this Representation should be laid before Congress, in Order that some Mode may be pointed out to furnish them immediately, which is impracticable, by this State, the Distance being so great, and, if it could be done the Expence would be enormous. It, certainly, would not be inconvenient to the States of North Carolina & Virginia to provide for their Subsistence. We have, upon all Occasions exerted ourselves to take Care of the Troops of other