

At the opening of the Session which met May 9th, 1749, the Governor congratulated the Assembly upon the restoration of peace, and upon the beneficial effects on the trade of the province of the recently enacted tobacco inspection law. An acrimonious dispute between the Governor and the Lower House in regard to the method of election of its clerk, arose immediately after the Assembly convened, and the Governor promptly prorogued the Assembly. The question at issue was whether the formal approval by the Governor of the choice of the Lower House of its clerk, as had been the custom, was a necessary preliminary to his assumption of that office. The qualifications of Michael Macnemara, who had previously served in this capacity, were not at issue, as there was no question as to his fitness. After several conferences the majority of the members of the Lower House yielded to the Governor, who called the General Assembly together in session again a few days later; the abortive meeting of the Assembly, which had lasted but three days, being styled in the records not a *session* but a *convention* of the Assembly. Macnemara was at once chosen clerk, his selection was approved by Ogle, and he was promptly sworn in.

Election abuses engaged much of the attention of this Assembly. The Lower House refused to seat the delegates from Cecil County because a member of the Upper House was alleged to have "intermeddled" in favor of their election, and a new election was ordered. The Lower House concurred in the report of its Committee on Elections and Privileges, deploring the fact that candidates for election to the Assembly in certain counties "not only at the immediate Time of such Election but a long Time before, both by themselves and their Agents . . . give uncommon Entertainments and great Quantities of strong and spirituous Liquors to the Electors of such Counties, thereby engaging the Promises of the weaker Sort of the said Electors to Vote for them . . . to the destruction of the Health, Strength, Peace and Quiet, and to the Corruption of the Morals of his Majesty's loyal Subjects." The Lower House by a vote of thirty-one to fifteen passed a bill to prevent persons holding other "Offices and Places of Profit and Trust" from sitting in the Assembly, but it was rejected by the Upper House. The great majority of laws passed at this Session were unimportant and local in character.

The Session which met May 8, 1750, accomplished little. The Lower House passed resolutions condemning the allowance of double pay to members of the Assembly, who on the same day attended a session of this body and served as magistrates, and also protested against double pay for members of the Upper House who on the same day sat in that body and as judges of the Court of Appeals. The Lower House passed a resolution by a vote of thirty-four to