

Hanson, Thomas Johnson, Samuel Chase, Thomas Ringgold, William Murdock, John Goldsborough, James Hollyday, and Brice Thomas Beale Worthington. To this group there were now added William Paca, and Matthew Tilghman, the last named a prominent leader in former assemblies. Sharpe wrote to Hamersley about this time that the influence of Worthington and Johnson in the Lower House was great (*Arch. Md.* XIV, 460). Edward Tilghman of Queen Anne's, one of the outstanding popular leaders in the house, must have been ill or out of the Province as he was not present at any time during this session. The leaders of the Proprietary faction, or "court party", in the Lower House were almost entirely from St. Mary's, Calvert, Worcester, and Somerset counties. The most influential were perhaps Daniel Wolstenholme, Charles Grahame, Samuel Wilson and William Hayward.

The recent difficulties with the mother country incidental to the Stamp Act had for the time somewhat thrown into the shade the long standing struggles between the Proprietary or "court" interest, represented by the Governor and the Upper House, and the "public" as represented by the popular or "county" party in the Lower House. The recent election would appear to have strengthened the popular party, but during this session the political struggles between the two parties remained in the background, and measures favored by the public, while brought forward and passed in a routine manner in the Lower House, did not in many cases, following rejection in the upper chamber, give rise to acrimonious messages, the controversial questions having been brought forward and voted upon in order to keep the record of the popular party clear. Sharpe wrote of this session that "the greatest harmony" prevailed (*Arch. Md.* XIV, 506).

The Lower House organized on May 24, 1768, in the usual way. Two members notified the Governor that there were a sufficient number [thirty-four] of delegates present in the "Stadt House" to compose an Assembly. The Clerk of the Upper House and two of its members were sent to the Lower House and administered the oaths to the several members present; two members of the Upper House then notified the delegates that the Governor required their attendance in the Upper House, where they were requested by the Governor to return and choose a speaker. Robert Lloyd was thereupon again unanimously elected Speaker and placed in the chair and two members of the Lower House so notified the Governor; two members of the Upper House then notified the delegates that the Governor again required their presence; the delegates went to the Upper House and presented Lloyd as their choice for Speaker, whereupon the Governor approved their choice. Sharpe then made his opening speech to the members of both houses (p. 325-327).

The Governor in this opening speech first referred to letters he had received from Sir William Johnson, the King's Superintendent of Indian affairs for this district, on behalf of the [Nanticoke] Indians, who had removed to Otsaningo in the Province of New York and been incorporated with the Six Nations, and who had petitioned to be allowed to sell their Maryland lands. This request of the Nanticokes and the subsequent action of the Assembly upon it, will be discussed more fully in a later section on the Nanticoke Indians (pp. lxxviii-lxxxix).