stake, the part I have acted in this affair cannot with justice be esteem'd
an arrogance — I did not presume authoritatively to order but as the Servant
of the Public correctly to interpret and comply — another Servant who also
appear'd to me to have the means in his hands, to take a certain step of
the best importance to the Public cause — I must repeat, Sir, that my reason
for addressing myself to Mr Purviance at Baltimore proceeded entirely
from my ignorance of there being any Troops at Annapolis, and not (as
I have been told has been thought) from any diffidence in your zeal
and decision — I suppose the Committee of Safety have received it in the
same light, for I read my letter to them and it was approved of —

In times like these, Sir, I conceive, that when We have received suf-
ficient evidences of any treasonable practices being carried on, and that
when it appears to us that the immediate seizure of a particular Traitorous person
may lead to discoveries on which the salvation of the State may depend
it [redacted] that when the utmost secrecy and expedition are required
to the seizure of his Person, it is the duty of a good Citizen not to
delay a single instant, if a single instant's delay may prevent the
execution — this was the manner I thought it my duty to proceed in
with the case of Mr Worsley — upon the discovery of his correspondence
with the Enemy, I gave orders for the security of his Person and Papers
and then referred the affair to the proper tribunal, the Committee
of Safety — the measure was so far from giving umbrage or ex-
cite any jealousy, that it met with their unanimous approbation
of this method is prescribed, at a juncture like the present, the g
[illegible] or dangerous correspondence and conspiracies will be taken off