

general welfare." Delegates from each state were to be elected annually, and Congress was to meet on the first Monday in November of each year. States were to be represented by no less than two nor no more than seven delegates, but each state, regardless of delegation size, was to have only one vote. When Congress was in recess, a committee of the states, composed of members from at least nine states, would be authorized to execute the powers of Congress. The Articles also provided that if Canada agreed to the terms proposed in them that it would be permitted to confederate with the other thirteen states.

The most controversial article was number eight, the one alluded to by Delegate Harnett concerning the payment of "all charges of war and all other expenses, that shall be incurred for the common defence or general welfare." States like Massachusetts that had land that sold for very high prices per acre were violently opposed to basing the quota of expenses on the value of land. Delegates from the southern states where land values were much lower favored this plan, and resolutely resisted a quota on population that included slaves. Those delegates representing states that had few slaves argued that southern planters enriched themselves by their slaves' labor and that therefore they should be taxed on this type of property.

Ultimately, after lengthy debate lasting for months, it was agreed by a majority of the states that the quota for supporting the war and other common expenses should be on the basis of the value of land, a proposition unanimously endorsed by the Maryland delegation, despite the objection of New Englanders. In an effort to mollify the New England states, especially New Hampshire, whose delegation had strenuously fought against the measure, Richard Henry Lee wrote to several important political leaders in those states, including Meshech Weare, president of New Hampshire. In his letter to Weare, dated November 24, Lee defended the Articles of Confederation by writing: "It is a great business, dear Sir, we must yield a little to each other, and not rigidly insist on having everything correspondent to the partial views of every state. On such terms we can never confederate." In a letter dated November 21, the New Hampshire Delegate Nathaniel Folsom had written Weare that he could not "see any Justice in the Rule therein laid down, for proportioning the several States in the charges of the present war." Ironically, it was not New Hampshire or any of the other New England states that impeded adoption of the Articles of Confederation. Maryland refused to ratify until February 27, 1781, insisting that all "three-sided" states--those that did not have western boundaries--cede all that land to the United States. Virginia finally yielded in January 1781, which precipitated Maryland's ultimate vote for ratification.

THE ARMY PREPARES FOR WINTER

Once the Articles of Confederation had been adopted by Congress, all that remained was to prepare a circular letter to accompany copies of it to