

the thirteen states, which was accomplished on November 17, and to appoint a committee to translate the document into French and "to report an address to the inhabitants of Canada, inviting them to accede to the union," which was done on November 29. The time-consuming and often vexing task of drawing up the Articles now finished, Congress could devote more time to the other pressing problems facing the states, and none was more worrisome than securing adequate shelter, clothing, and food for Washington's army.

The commander in chief had shifted the position of his headquarters several times during October, but on November 2 he encamped his army at White Marsh, Pennsylvania, some twenty miles north of Philadelphia. Although his men were to be spared the agony of another march for six weeks, the condition of the clothing of much of his army was deplorable. Despite repeated pleas to Congress and the governors of adjacent states, many of his men were barefoot, had only light summer clothing to wear, and were forced to sleep on the damp or snow-covered ground at night. Even when supplies were available the prices had become so exorbitant that the states and Congress were forced to print more money to pay for them, which only drove prices higher as the inflationary spiral continued. The needs of his men were so desperate, however, that Washington offered a "reward of Ten Dollars" to anyone who could produce a "substitute for shoes, made of raw hides." As early as October 24, Washington had reported to Congress that the shortage of shoes would render fully two-thirds of his army ineffective within days.

Congress passed a resolution on November 14 stating that "General Washington be informed that Congress have long since written to the commissioners in France for cloaths complete for eighty thousand men, and have received answer that they might be expected here by the setting of winter; in consequence of which, Congress have reason to hope for this necessary arrival in a short time." Congress further recommended that Washington "avail himself of the powers vested in him for obtaining these necessary supplies from the disaffected inhabitants," that is, that he should confiscate shoes, clothing, and other supplies from those sympathetic to the British, paying them "a reasonable price for what is demanded of them."

Washington must have taken little comfort in Congress's resolve. Howe's troops had pillaged the area of much of the clothing and cattle, and with the fall of Fort Mifflin the British would be able to devote more of their men-of-war to cruising the Atlantic coastline intercepting goods destined for his army. Congress also realized the desirability of developing alternatives to the need for importing most of the supplies for the army. On November 15, for example, Congress resolved that "a committee of three be appointed to collect and digest the late useful discoveries for making molasses and spirits from the juice of corn stalks, and report a plan for communicating the said discoveries to the inhabitants of the several states." Making molasses and liquor from cornstalk must have seemed like turning straw into gold to some members of Congress, but anything that might alleviate the suffering of the army had to be