

The problem was that Congress could only recommend, it could not order the states to tax their citizens. Nevertheless, on November 26 Congress adopted a resolution to be forwarded to all the states that began: "Pursued by the injustice and the vengeance of Great Britain, these United States have been compelled to engage in a bloody and expensive war." After explaining the financial problems of Congress, the resolution continued:

Blessed be God, they are not irremediable. The means of repressing them are still in our power. Let the virtuous patriots of America reflect on the inestimable value of the prize for which we are contending. Hitherto spared from taxes, let them now with a cheerful heart contribute according to their circumstances. Let the sordid wretches, who shrink from danger and personal service, and meanly prefer their inglorious ease and emolument to the good of their country, be despised, and their ill-gotten wealth be abhorred as a disgrace. Let the extortioner and oppressor be punished; the secret traitor dragged to light; the necessities of the army attended to and relieved; and the quantity of money in circulation be reduced.

To accomplish the goal of solvency for the Continental Treasury Congress asked "That it be most earnestly recommended to the respective states to raise in the course of the year 1778, commencing on the first day of January next, by quarterly payments, the sum of five millions of dollars, by taxes, to be levied on the inhabitants." Maryland's share of the total was set at \$520,000. Five states voted in the affirmative on the resolution, two states were divided, and four states voted in the negative. Maryland delegates, Benjamin Rumsey and William Smith both voted against the resolution, but being in the minority it passed and was forwarded on to the various states.

AFFAIRS IN MARYLAND

The second Maryland General Assembly, which met on October 31, had to face many of the same problems that confronted Congress: funds were low, urgent appeals for shoes and clothing were received from General Smallwood who was in command of the Maryland troops at White Marsh, Pennsylvania, and supplies of all types were difficult, if not impossible, to procure. With the departure of the British fleet from the Bay, however, the Assembly felt sufficiently confident to have the records of the Loan Office and Treasury conveyed back to Annapolis from the more secure locations inland where they had been taken. On November 4, the General Assembly ordered that "the Money, Books, Papers and other things removed under the care of the respective Officers" be returned to Annapolis, where they were to "be deposited in the Offices in which they were heretofore kept."