

Just prior to the adoption by the Lower House of the eight resolves and the instructions to its representatives to the Stamp Act Congress, it had resolved that £500 current money be appropriated towards their expenses, and that if their expenses in the service exceeded that amount "this House will take care that they be repaid in the first Application of Public Money hereafter", any balance to be returned to the treasurer (p. 24). A message was then sent to the Upper House notifying it of the appointment of three delegates to meet in New York with commissioners of other colonies "to Consult together on the present Circumstances of the Colonies and the Difficulties to which they are and must be reduced by the Operation of the late Acts of Parliament for levying duties and Taxes on the Colonies and to Consider of a General and united dutiful loyal and humble Representation of their Condition to his Majesty and the Parliament and to Implore Relief". The message went on to request the concurrence of the Upper House in an ordinance appropriating £500 current money in conformity with the terms of the resolution previously adopted (pp. 25, 26). It was at this point that the Upper House was for the first time brought directly into the Stamp Act picture. On the same day the Upper House in a message in reply said that as it had not "at present any regular Notice of the Foundation of the Resolve referred to in Your Message of this day and it being necessary that We Should be apprised of it before We come to a Determination on the Subject of that Message We request that You will be pleased to Communicate it to this House" (p. 7). The Lower House replied by sending the letters received from the Massachusetts House of Representatives, which were "the foundation" of the resolve (pp. 25, 7).

The Upper House in a second message declared: "We approve of the Measures in sending Commissioners from this Province to meet such as have been appointed in the other Colonies in order to Consult together on the present Circumstances of the Colonies . . . and to Consider of a General and United dutiful Loyal and humble Representation of their Condition to his Majesty and the Parliament and to implore Relief and therefore Shall Cheerfully Concur in an Ordinance for the payment of £500 . . . but We cannot concur even in a Vote and much less in an Ordinance of unlimited Credit". The Upper House then proceeded to amend the ordinance which had been sent to it. It added to the Lower House draft the provision that the delegates be required to lay before the Assembly "the Proceedings they shall join in with the Commissioners of the other Colonies". It also amended the ordinance by eliminating the provisions giving the delegates authority to spend more than the £500 appropriated and the promise to make a future grant for any expenses exceeding this amount (pp. 10, 11). The Lower House objected to these amendments, and the Upper House in a return message proposed a compromise, saying that as it was "desirous of cultivating particularly on this Occasion a Good Correspondence between the two Houses", it would agree to pass the ordinance without the insertion of the proviso that the delegates be required to lay before the Assembly a record of the proceedings of the meeting at New York, although it must insist upon the elimination of the promise