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Newburgh April 17<sup>th</sup> 1781

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I had great Expectations that the  
Materials for Tents, Knapsacks &c more than  
sufficient for the whole Army, & which were  
sent for so long since, would in the course of the  
winter have arrived from France. Or on the  
failure of these Supplies (and they have to-  
tally failed) I hoped to have obtained from  
the Treasury of the United States the means  
of providing the Camp Equipage necessary  
for the Army the ensuing Campaign: but my  
applications to Congress on this head have  
proved fruitless; I have not obtained a sin-  
gle shilling. Nor is there now the smallest  
prospect of my receiving any money for  
this purpose - The Treasury is empty - These  
unhappy events have reduced me to the  
necessity of requesting the aid of individ-  
ual States as the only source remaining -  
This measure did not occur to me till  
I had found that nothing could be ex-

pected.

pected from the Treasury of the United States, nor indeed till then would the present application been pertinent. - It is however now become still more proper since by the act of confederation (Art. 9.) it is declared that each state shall raise, cloathe, arm & equip. its own quota of Troops. - Nevertheless in the present Demand I have comprehended only Tents, Hap Sacks & Haversacks - Canteens are providing for the whole main Army: and Camp Kettles I expect to procure where they are manufactured, viz, in Pennsylvania. - I have also omitted another Article, which tho' of small Expence, is yet extremely useful to the Soldiers, that is spoons. - These by a Resolution of Congress of the 27<sup>th</sup> of September 1775 appeared to be a part of the Camp Equipage with which the Soldiers should be furnished by the public, but which I believe have not generally been provided for them - For the accommodation of  
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the Soldiers I cannot but wish this small article may be added to the Estimate - The Number will of course be equal to that of the men - The Haversack is intended for the carriage of provisions: for the want of which the Troops are often put to great Difficulty; being obliged when detach'd either to leave their provisions behind or put them among their Cloathes in their Knapsacks -

I entreat fir that the application now made may be viewed in a very serious light - From present appearances I cannot even hope for the means of providing the articles mentioned in the Estimate - Unless Tents are furnish'd by the respective States, the Troops when rais'd cannot take the field; or if they do (and the public Interest, if not the Operations of the Enemy, will require it)

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they must be exposed to all the vicissitudes of the weather, which cannot fail of producing the most fatal Effects. Besides the sickness and Destruction of the Troops for want of Cover, the loss of Ammunition in rainy weather would be great and irretrievable.

I have formed the Estimate of Tents with a view on the one Hand, to provide for the reasonable Accommodation of the Officers & men, and on the other to avoid Superfluity & Extravagance -

Officers who were to serve but two or three months might put up with very ill accommodations, but it cannot be expected that those who are for a Succession of years in the field, and may be said to live there will submit to be crowded together in Heaps while the

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Country abound in an Article so necessary for their Health & Convenience.

The present Demand on Individual States is extended to the entire supply of their respective Quotas of Troops, because few Troops remain of those upon the last Campaign - They were then chiefly old, & capable of lasting only during that Campaign - The small Supplies of that Article since provided have been sent to the Southern Army, whose Demands nevertheless are, & I fear will remain unsatisfied. -

I shall be greatly obliged to your Excellency for an Answer to this Letter, informing me what prospect there will be of your State furnishing the Articles in the Estimate & where.

I have the Honor to be  
with the greatest Respect  
Your most Obedient servant

Simon Pickering 2<sup>d</sup> Mg.

His Excellency Meshech Weare Esq.