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Philadelphia 13<sup>th</sup> March 1780. 125

Sir

You will doubtless have the  
resolutions of Congress, respecting the Quotas  
of men, and Supplies, to be furnished by the  
respective States, officially transmitted to  
you previous to the receipt of this Letter,  
and on the 4<sup>th</sup> instant the delegates  
of N. Hamp<sup>sh</sup>. did themselves the Honor of  
inclosing you Extracts from Communications  
lately made by the Ministers of France; as  
also the answers Congress ~~made~~ made  
to those Communications - by all which  
you will be able to form some Idea of the

The Hon<sup>ble</sup> Mess<sup>rs</sup> Weare Secy. presid<sup>t</sup> de

Newsp

Letter from Col. W. Heath body of the  
13<sup>th</sup> of March 1780



Necessary measures to be taken for the ensuing Campaign, — as also the situation, and views of the Allied Powers —

The number of men assigned

for New Hampshire to furnish is about one 6<sup>th</sup> part more, in my opinion, <sup>than</sup> would be their Just Quota —

But as Congress did on W. 9<sup>th</sup> ulto. resolve: "That the reasonable expense any State hath incurred or may incur by raising and having in the Continental Army, more than what shall hereafter appear to have been their Just ~~Quota~~ proportions of the troops actually serving in the said Army from time to time, shall be allowed to such States & Equitably adjusted in a final Settlement of their accounts with the United States" the Injury will not be so great, or in other words a prospect of future Justice will make the present grievance more tolerable.



3/ As to the apportionment, and price of Supplies  
 appear to me an Object of Very Great mag-  
 nitude and ought to be thoroughly investigated  
 This I cannot say the amount of Supplies  
 allotted to New-Hamp<sup>sh</sup>, to furnish, Lib<sup>er</sup>ated at  
 the rates affixed to them, very far exceeds their  
 due proportion, yet I must Confess I had no  
 small degree of Anxity when I take a short  
 retrospect of the various manoeuvres practis'd  
 in order to obtain those resolutions especially  
 that for affixing prices, which must evidently  
 appear to every <sup>impartial</sup> person, well acquainted with  
 the rates at which those articles were formerly  
 or are at present day, usually sold in  
 the various parts of the Continent, supperstitiously  
 call'd upon to furnish the same - It was by  
 no means founded upon those just and  
 impartial principles of equality & reciprocity  
 which ought, at all times, to Govern in  
 every important decision, as being the  
 only



4) - only sure means, of cementing the Union of  
these States, or whereby a Nation can ever rationally  
expect to be exalted —

The rates by which those prices  
in Spain were pretended to have been determined  
was for all articles of American produce at  
50 per cent advance upon the price such  
articles were usually sold for at the place of  
delivery, in the respective States in the year  
1774 — and articles imported from foreign  
ports in the same proportion with a reasonable  
additional allowance for the charge and trifling  
of Importation —

Let us now examine how far  
this Wile has been observed? — Indian  
Corn in the Southern States was formerly sold  
at from 21. to 24. 90<sup>th</sup> of a Dollar per Bushel  
it is now rated at 67<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 90<sup>th</sup> which in stead of  
being 50, is 200 per cent advance, Hye, Oats,  
and many other articles of short forage nearly  
in the same proportion! — The price of the best  
first —



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first crop hay at the Market was formerly  
about 6, or 7 Dollars per Ton, it is now rated at  
more than 1 Cent per Cent advance above the  
former price. The price of Merchants  
flour in this City was formerly about  
Two Dollars per Cent, Tho it was often lower,  
Now rated at 4 Dollars 25, which is 125 per Cent  
advance - but enough has been said  
to show that such States, whose distance  
from the Theatre of war, or other circum-  
stances will not admit of furnishing their  
proportions, of their and many other articles  
rates in a similar manner, will be charged  
in a Specie account from 100 to 150 per Cent  
advance above the former price upon  
an average - and it ought to be here  
observed, the various articles were assigned  
to the respective States previous to affixing  
the prices.

Let us now pay a short visit to the  
Eastward, say New Hampshire. Their delegates  
confered



6)

7)

consented to the article of beef, or other meat equivalent  
 Supposing it possible to furnish that article - They  
 also consented to some part of the article of rum  
 not doubting <sup>but the mind of</sup> both articles would be sold in  
 just proportion, with other articles of Supplies  
 call for, and in hopes as the Sea port there  
 was open, it might be in the Power of the State  
 to furnish at least a part of the rum, but at  
 the same time, they were the rather induced to  
 consent to that article, for want of ability  
 to furnish other, and more necessary, Supplies, and  
 apprehending, also, that a failure in furnishing  
 this rum, would not be attended with so dis-  
 agreeable consequences, to the public, as a failure  
 in many other articles of Supplies, and of course  
 the State would escape the most possible <sup>consequent upon such neglect</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>inconceivable</sup> ~~consequences~~.

But to the point, - It is now time to enquire  
 how, and in what manner that State is to discharge  
 itself from the enormous Debt bro<sup>n</sup> upon her  
 by consequence of the high, and unequal, prices,  
 affixed as afores<sup>d</sup>? - By furnishing Grasp fed  
 beef at 5d<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> Dollars per Hundred w<sup>t</sup>. I mention  
 Grasp fed because those who would wish to keep their  
 Cattle here after the first of December <sup>for a higher price</sup> must begin  
 to



to feed with Corn and other dry forage, by reason of the winter setting in, at least a month earlier than there was in Connecticut and the States to the Southward which will be such an additional & partial expense I expect very little beef will be furnished from that State after the 1<sup>st</sup> of November.

The price of Good beef at that season of the year was heretofore usually about four Dollars per Hundred wt. and is now raised five and a half Dollars per <sup>wt</sup> which is not so great an advance from the Old price. And as to the Rum or thought I by no means pretend to be master of Marketable affairs yet I will venture to affirm that no man can import that article, at this day, by exporting flour at the price offered, so as to be able to sell the Rum here under about 2 Dollars & 3/4<sup>th</sup> or three Dollars per Gallon if he can for that. The present Price of Eastern Rum is from a Gallon to a Gallon & a half of Rum for one hundred of flour hence it is obvious that

my



plus held for as may refer to the State or his  
 Delegates in Congress the full and indisputable  
 right, and Power, ~~at~~ when our public affairs will admit,  
 at any future period, of  
 investigating the Subject and endeavouring to  
 obtain a redress of the Grievance and  
 Compensation of the injury complained  
 of, in such sort that no act the State  
 may adopt respecting the Subject may  
 by any Construction whatsoever be deemed  
 an acquiescence in the System adopted by  
 Congress before alluded to for furnishing  
 Supplies for the Army.

It has incessantly been my  
 most ardent wish, and aim, that Congress  
 would fall upon some Eligible Mode for  
 freeing the public from the intolerable  
 burden they have for a long time been  
 groaning and Travelling under even until  
 now in supporting Legions of Continual  
 Sinecures who appear in swarms like  
 Locusts upon the Land of Egypt, and not  
 only



11  
only draw Numberless operations; but are in every  
other respect resting upon the blood and  
Treasures of the virtuous Citizens (if any  
such there be) in these wretched States.

By making calculations upon indisputable  
documents in my possession I am, with  
astonishment concerned that there is  
not one moment to be lost, in retrenching  
public expences, — loosing off every burthen  
in order to introduce a more economical  
System — It will be in vain  
for these States, in future, to attempt suffering  
the burthen she has but too long  
been groaning under. And  
I have good reason to hope some  
spirited & vigorous measures will  
immediately be adopted for effecting  
so desirable an object.

Tho. in the present situation  
of



of our public affairs, and the  
 deranged state of our finances  
 the expenditures must be nominally  
 very large in order to prosecute the war  
 with success or negotiate for peace with any  
 tolerable degree of policy or advantage

However the present prospect in any private  
 opinion, proposes no other alternative, than  
 to adjust the war on the one hand, or on the other  
 to exert every nerve, to carry on the war with  
 redoubled vigor the ensuing Campaign, and  
 I hope the Citizens of these States will be glad to  
 choose a single moment

I have the Hon<sup>ble</sup> to be desired

with the most entire sentiments of Esteem

Your Hon<sup>ble</sup> most obliged obed<sup>t</sup>  
 and very humble Serv<sup>t</sup>  
 Nathl. Peabody

P. S. Mr. Livermore is determined to set off for  
 N. Hamp<sup>sh</sup> as soon as the traveling will permit  
 and will be able to give full information  
 upon many important matters