

## **Governor George Mathews to the Speaker of the Assembly, Augusta, 18 October 1787**

Duty as well as inclination equally require that I should take the earliest opportunity to state to your Honorable House the reasons that have induced the Executive to call you together.

The disposition the Indians discover for war will appear by Mr. [Timothy] Barnard's letters and the talks from the Creek Nation and I am unhappy to add that the murder of our citizens too fully point out the necessity of your meeting. I flatter myself that it will not be deemed improper when I mention to you how inadequate the militia law is, in almost every part, to the defense of the state in time of war and beg your attention to its revisal.

The want of public faith is so fully shown from the depreciation of our currency that for me to urge your endeavors to raise its credit and restore public faith would be insulting your understanding and give room to suspect that I thought you not the real friends of your country and the guardians of your constituents, but on these matters I have the fullest assurance in my own breast of your zeal, integrity, and wisdom.

There appears to be a deficiency of at least five thousand pounds in the appropriation of your Honorable House the last session for the militia and other services rendered the state. It will rest with you to make provision for payment, so that the citizens may be on an equal footing.

The different dispatches and business that have come before the Executive during your recess, and have been ordered to be laid before you, the secretary now attends you with, as also a copy of my letter to our delegates in Congress on the prospect of an Indian war which I have too much reason to fear is unavoidable.

I should think myself guilty of ingratitude not to assure your Honorable House that from the unexpected honor you have conferred on me in the appointment I now hold, that this state has a right to expect my most vigorous exertions in its defense, and you may rest assured of it.

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