

Sent by the Clerk of this Board from the Honble his Maj- U. H. J.  
estys Council a message in relation to the Ships now in the  
Country drawn up as follows Viz<sup>t</sup>

By the Honble his Majestys Council in Assembly May 2<sup>d</sup> 1696 p. 860

It being moved at the Board that some Reasons might be  
Given upon a Proposall yesterday laid before the House  
touching the Ships now in the Country inductive to the  
addressing his Excellency for suffering the same to be Cleared  
do therefore offer the following Reasons to the Consideration  
of the House to the End if the House thinks them sufficient  
and proper they may joyn with them in the said Address

Signed p order  
H Denton Clk Concl.

The reasons follow in these words viz<sup>t</sup>

1 That if the Ships get home his Majesty will get his  
Customs

2 The Seamen may be Serviceable to his Majesty when  
got home

3 The Worm may Endanger their Ships by staying in  
the Country besides Provisions are very scarce here

4 That if the Ships should be stopt to go in a Fleet  
together there are but two Londoners of any Force and the  
rest lye Scattered in other Parts.

5 It is Observed that Ships that summer here do usually  
stay till the next Spring by Reason of mens falling sick in the  
Country

He Returns and says he delivered the same

Brought from the House of Burgesses by their Clerk the  
following answer viz<sup>t</sup>

By the House of Burgesses May 2<sup>d</sup> 1696.

Upon Perusall of the Message delivered to the House by the  
Clerk of the Council relating to the Ships in the Country we  
humbly desire the Opinion of the Honble Council if the said  
Ships shall be Stopt or cleared and thereupon we should either  
Concur therewith or offer such Reasons to the Contrary as  
we humbly conceive will be Satisfactory

Signed p Order  
W Bladen Clk Assembly.

The which being read was answered as follows

By the honble his Majestys Council in Assembly May 2<sup>d</sup>  
1696