

Brought from the House of Burgesses by several members thereof the following message
with several Resolves in answer to the last Remarks sent them from this Board viz

By the House of Burgesses October 2 1696

The House understand by the messengers last sent that his Excellency is not satisfied with our last Message under any apprehension that his Excellency has under imputation of using the Countries Money because some single Persons without reason and contrary to Justice may let fall such imputations - We are very sorry his Excellency should so apprehend us and therefore to clear our selves and the whole Province whom we represent we do hereby publicly declare with one consent that at all times past we have found his Excellency perform the course of Justice with a Tendency that way - That he hath always treated us with Justice and Honour not considering so much his own as our good and never either required or used any of the Countries money but on the contrary hath several times lent us money of his own and received nothing but the principal again and the money that his Excellency has now received from us is no more than what he lent us and lain a considerable time out of and this we sincerely declare and desire it may be accepted of from us. Signed by Order W Bladen Clerk of Assembly

Spoken to by his Excellency and his Majesty's honourable Council Hen Denton Clerk of Assembly
His Excellency is further pleased to Represent that as he never called and sent by two when there was an absolute necessity for it for the glory of God the Kings Service and Good of the Country so neither has the Tobacco expended and allowed by those Families been paid away or gone to the use of any persons besides the Inhabitants of the Country

The Resolves of the House of Burgesses read viz

By the House of Burgesses October 2 1696

The House read last Message and as to the first part thereof relating to the Ordinance for quieting the minds of the people we conceive that we have expressed our selves to the same purpose though not in the same words and from which we cannot recede

As to the Rangers Resolved that they be allowed for their Tobacco where with they purchase the Arms one penny p Pound but when to be paid left to his Excellency & Council

As to the Fees we are not willing to have more than what are already and so have resolved and cannot recede

As to Mr Brays Appeal we can say no more than what We have said

As to Sir Thomas Lawrence we can say no more at present than what we have said when the Good Effects of his Honours Negotiation appears we doubt not but that Assembly will make their Acknowledgments for the same as shall become them

As to the Ships we have not further to say therein

We cannot but with Great Grief of Heart say that if his Majesty's Subjects here have not a Reasonable time allowed them to produce their Certificate or other reasonable proof for the discharge it may be the utter ruin of many good Families and we humbly beg leave to Remark that if once Judgment is Obtained there will be no time to the defendant to produce his Certificate or other legal proof for it comes to law after Judgment but if reasonable time were allowed Certificates might be produced and the guilty distinguished from the Guiltless but if time be not allowed they must all be involved in one common Ruin without distinction of guilt from true traders Signed by Order W Bladen Clerk of Assembly

Brought from the House of Burgesses by Col Sherman the following report about the Roof of the State House viz

By the House of Burgesses October 2 1696

Ordered that Major John Hammond Captain Richard Hill Mr Thomas Dixon and Captain Edward Blay go and inspect in the Roof of the new State House and make their Report to this House as to the Goodness and sufficiency thereof the said Gentlemen go out and return to the House and report that they find the same in all respects good and sufficient

Signed by Order W Bladen Clerk of Assembly

Ordered that two of the Gentlemen of his Majesty's honourable Council go and inspect the said Roof and make their Report thereon and that afterwards they go down to the House to acquaint them that his Excellency requires their attendance at this Board to see the Laws passed &c And accordingly went the honorable Col Hutchins and Col Brown who returned and say that they have viewed the Roof of the State House & find it to be very substantial