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please to command them. The House is adjourned for half an hour.
House again met - Mr. Boothby and Major Thompson returned
and say they have delivered their Message.

The Hon^{ble} George Robertson, Col. Charles Hutchinson and Colonel
John Addison came down to the House and bring with them the
Several Bills this day sent up to His Majesty's Hon^{ble} Council, except
Bill for laying the publique Levy of this Province, which Bill is
reported to by His Majesty's Hon^{ble} Council.

Ordered that Colonel Darnalls Declaration set up at ye door
of this House be entered upon ye Journall and then again put up.

Capt. Hill, Mr. Justice, Mr. Boothby and Mr. Low sent to His Excellency and
Hon^{ble} Council with ye following Report from ye Committee of Assignees

May ye 12th 1696. It is complained of to this Committee that Manifest
and great Decay of Trade in Several parts of this Province adjoining
to our Neighbouring Colonys doth daily happen by Shippers leaving this
Province by reason of the too great Strictness in taking Security from
Masters of Shippers which is very difficult to procure and imposing
Oaths on them, and unless His Excellency can abate the severity thereof here
or procure the same Strictness in ye Neighbour Colonys it may prove
of ill Consequences to this Province.

This House requests that His Excellency would represent ye same to His
Maj^{ty} Hon^{ble} the Com^{rs} of Customs, or take such other Measures as
in His wisdom he shall think fitt.

Mr. John Blew's petition read - and put to ye Question if the
petitioner and others under their Circumstances shall not pay Levy
and Carriage, Messine Contradictente in ye Affirmative.

Capt. Hill and the rest of ye Members, returned and say they have
delivered their Message and that His Excellency recommend that ye Justices
of ye Provinciall Court and His Majesty's Hon^{ble} Council may be of the
Committee for Laying ye publique Levy to be laid before His Excellency.

Whereupon the following Message sent to His Excellency the Gov^r and His
Maj^{ty} Hon^{ble} Council.

By ye House of Burgesses May the 13th 1696.

In answer to what His Excellency and the Hon^{ble} Board have been pleased
to recommend to this House, (to wit) that His Excellency the Gov^r and His
Maj^{ty} Hon^{ble} Council - should be joyned to ye Committee appointed
by this House for laying and apaying of ye publique Levy - (We say) that
as it is ye undoubted Right and priviledge of the Representative Body
of this Province - to consent to ye raising of Money upon ye inhabitants
so likewise is it to levy the same when raised, therefore humbly pray
the Hon^{ble} Board, would not press a matter of so much intrenching
upon ye ancient Rights and priviledges of His Majesty's Subjects of this