

Post (Mercedem. House Metts.  
A Letter from the Right Hon<sup>ble</sup> the Lords of the Council for Trade  
and Foreign Plantations wherein severall Decrees are putt Said  
before the House for their perusal and Consideration.

Also a Letter from the Hon<sup>ble</sup> the Com<sup>rs</sup> of the Customs requiring His  
Ex<sup>ty</sup> to have a Bonds prosecuted which was taken for the Shipp. Expedition  
of Maryland that went directly to Courafray a Dutch Factory.

House adjourned till 6 of 4<sup>o</sup> Clock on Monday Morning.

Monday May 4<sup>o</sup> 31<sup>st</sup> 1697.

House Metts. Major William Barton appears in the House.

Severall proposalls from His Ex<sup>ty</sup> the Gov<sup>r</sup> and His Mat<sup>ty</sup> Hon<sup>ble</sup>  
Council Said before the House.

Whereupon Debated and Resolved as followeth - Viz<sup>t</sup> -

And as to the first being a Complaint from Somersett County that  
the Expenses of the County Com<sup>rs</sup> there at 80<sup>th</sup> Lib<sup>rs</sup> p<sup>r</sup> are burthensome  
and grievous to the Said County.

Resolved that His Ex<sup>ty</sup> be addressed to Lopen 4<sup>o</sup> Members of a  
Com<sup>rs</sup> in the Said County.

A proposall from the Said County of Somersett that some of the ablest  
Freeholders of the County may be adjoyned with the Com<sup>rs</sup> when they  
assess the County Levy.

Resolved that there is no occasion thereof since the County Levys  
are assessed in open Court and no one debarred from Making Legall  
objections to any allowances therein.

That it is a great grievance in the Said County that poor  
Men are Chosen Constables who cannot well attend the Said  
Employ by reason of such their poverty.

Resolved that His Ex<sup>ty</sup> and His Mat<sup>ty</sup> Hon<sup>ble</sup> Council  
be desired to direct the Justices of the severall Courts to Choose abler  
Men and richer that may better attend the Said office of Constables.

2<sup>o</sup> That Enquiry be Made whether Col: Talbot did ever reimburse  
the County his Imprisonment Fees.

Upon Enquiry this House do find that Col: Talbot never did  
reimburse the County the same.

3<sup>o</sup> That there be some Law Made to prevent Seamen, Servants from  
running away to other Govern<sup>ts</sup> and to Consider also therein a former  
proposall about Runaway Debtors and that if in Case the House can not  
agree about Making such a Law at the present that then they would lay  
the same before His Mat<sup>ty</sup> in Council whereby His Mat<sup>ty</sup> maybe  
induced to send some Gent<sup>l</sup> Order to the severall adjacent Govern<sup>ts</sup>  
for redress of the Said Evils.

This proposall is refered to the Committee of Laws which are to Report thereon to this House.