

Committee on the Subject, but that he had given the said Instructions himself, that he exculpated the Committee from all Censure on that Account, and that he would give his Answer in Writing to that effect on Monday morning

Monday 22 April 1776. The Committee met.

Present, William Lux Chairman

J. Moale	W. Buchanan	C. Ridgely (of W ^m)	J. Calhoun
J. Smith	T. Harrison	J. E. Howard	J. Cradock
J. Boyd	J. Merryman	J. Gittings	G. Risteau
D. Lux	W. Wilkinson	W. Tolly Jun ^r	T. Sollers
T. Gist	And ^w Buchanan	W. Asquith	J. Sterrett
A. Britton			Js. Griest

M^r Sam^l Purviance appeared and delivered in the following Answer in Writing agreeable to his Promise on Saturday

April 22, 1776

Gentlemen

Agreeable to my Declaration to the Committee at last Meeting the 20th Ins^t that I exculpated all the Members of the Committee from any Concern in the Orders, which I gave as Chairman of the Committee to Cap^t Sam^l Smith the 14th Ins^t I am now to inform you the Circumstances of that Affair, & the Reasons on which I ventured to give those orders

The Dispatches reced from the Council of Virginia, with a Letter written by General Lee & directed to me as Chairman of this Committee, I considered as sufficient Reasons to justify the Committee in using their best Endeavours to sieze Governour Eden, his Secretary and M^r Alexander Ross, should they or either of them be found attempting to escape from Annapolis; a Suspicion founded on the certain Knowledge, that M^r Ross had gone from this to Annapolis a few days before, and that it was highly probable, he would alarm the Governor with the Account of the Secretary of States Letters to Gov^r Eden being siezed & taken from him on his way up from Lord Dunmore. On considering those Papers at my House on Sunday Evening, it seemed to be the general opinion of the Gentlemen there assembled, that if Cap^t Nicholson's Tender was here, it would be proper to dispatch her with some Men to Annapolis to wait the orders of the Council of Safety. On Monday morning I was informed, that Cap^t James Nicholson was returned in his Tender from Chester: on which I sent for him and communicated to him the Purport of the Dispatches received from the Council of Virg^a and Gen^l Lee's Letter, and told him the Sentiments of the Gentlemen who met at my House the Evening before, that it would be