

Original reasonable] Excuse why they did not appear here in [the  
Journal. house according to] prorogation thereof are not excused, and  
[ordered to pay the messengers] fees and Charges that were  
sent for them.

Whereas an Ord<sup>r</sup> of [his Ex<sup>cy</sup>] the Gov<sup>r</sup> and Council of  
the first of May 1696 put up at the Door of this House order-  
ing that the Clarks and other persons have recourse to their  
severall Offices notwithstanding the sitting of the house of  
Burgesses was brought before this house.

Resolved the following Message be sent up to his Ma<sup>ty</sup>s  
hon<sup>ble</sup> Council.

By the house of Burgesses May the 4<sup>th</sup> 1696.

This house does highly resent and are much grieved to see  
their priviledges so much intrenched upon by the hon<sup>ble</sup> his  
Ma<sup>ty</sup>s Council as appears by a late paper affixed at the Door  
of the House of Assembly at a publique meeting upon the  
Sabbath Day, in which they endeavor to debarr them of that  
Right which is due to the meanest and Inferior Court of this  
Province to witt privacy and uninterrupted, and more espe-  
cially since this house considering the p<sup>r</sup>sent inconveniencies  
have never debarrd the Clarks from their Offices further then  
in prudence and our Duty to his Ma<sup>ty</sup>s service required, and  
therefore humbly desire the said paper in which our Rights  
and priviledges are so trampled upon may not remain upon  
the Journalls of the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Council. For as We shall  
p. 24 ever endeavor to the whole world to give an Ample testi-  
mony of our Duty and Affection to his Ex<sup>cy</sup> and the hon<sup>ble</sup> his  
Council so likewise We shall endeavor to preserve the  
Rights and priviledges We are intrusted with as representa-  
tives of his Ma<sup>ty</sup>s Loyall and dutifull Subjects of this province.

Sign'd p Ord<sup>r</sup>

[W: Bladen, Clk of] Assembly.

Sent by Mr Tasker [Major Hammond Mr Mason] Mr  
Frisby Mr Clarke Mr Boothby Major [Smallwood Mr Lowe,]  
Major Smithson & Col. pearce.

Mr Tasker and the [rest of the members] sent returne  
to the House and say they have [delivered] their Message.

Mr Boothby added to the Com̄ittee of Laws.

Ordered the Com̄ittee of Laws send for Books papers  
Records or any person or persons they shall think fitt to advise  
with.

The Keeper of the Great Seals Letter read in the house  
relating to his fees. Ordered that he bring in his Acc<sup>t</sup> of