

Lib. H. D.  
Whitehall

By the House of Burgesses, Octob<sup>r</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 1695.

The House taking into their serious consideration the severall Proposals & Recommendations from his Excell the Govern<sup>r</sup> & his Ma<sup>ty</sup> hono<sup>ble</sup> Councill relating to New York, do debate & Resolve thereon as followeth, Viz<sup>t</sup> That Whereas vpon Receipt of her late Ma<sup>ty</sup> Royall Commands altho this province was not worth the Money required either in banke or had any prospect of advancing the same; Yet rather than We would be any ways short therein, We attempted a thing of the greatest hazard by laying an Imposition of three pence p hogshead after the greatest part of the ships were loaden which was so much more than our neighbouring Colony of Virginia imposed by which means the Merchants trading here are disgusted & induced to leave this province & trade in Virginia & other neighbouring Colonies & carry their Goods thither, by which means Trade will of necessity decay & faile here & thrive there, and that of course will induce all Men that are not fast Engaged here to leave this place & go there & thereby the province be depopulated & lye open to the heathen or to any other Enemy that think it worth their taking. After which put to the question in the House, if the Act for the Additionall Duty of 3<sup>d</sup> p hogshead on Tobacco exported shall be any further continued than this present year, and Resolved Unanimously that the same be no longer continued than till the Expiration of the s<sup>d</sup> Act.

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It is further considered by the House that this province is so scituated that the ffrontiers of it are the Road way by w<sup>ch</sup> fforraign Indians pass from the Norward to Virginia & other southern plantations; And We have severall Nations of Indians among Us which have dayly correspondence with fforraign Indians whose motions we are forced to observe so that we are obliged to maintain severall parties of men in constant pay, as well for the discovery of the fforraign Indians passing as others, by which means this province is at great charge, but have thereby discovered, from whence those fforraign Indians come, where they inhabite & their distance from Us, and are sadly made acquainted that they are nearer to this province by at least three days March than they are to New York, And We have just reason to believe when they come to know our Weakness and that We have no ffortifications or places of strength, nay as yet scarce Arms for our small train bands they will be much rather induced to Attack Us than New York.

As to making vp the Quota of Money proposed, it is considered by the House that the greatest part of our substance consists of Cattell, hogs & Tobacco, And since it hath pleased God this last year by a hard Winter to cause such a mortality