

Butt that upon complaint humbly made to his late Ma<sup>ty</sup> in P. R. O. Councill, and prooffe made by Sir Thomas Laurence his Majestyes then Secretary, of the injury done to his said office, his late Majesty was pleased to disallow the said Law soe obtained by Coll Copley, and by order of Councill dated March 2<sup>d</sup> 1693 to restore the said Sir Thomas to the full profit of the said Ordinary Lycences, upon the Kings Secretary in manner and forme it was ev<sup>r</sup> before

That this Law of Ordinary Licences being among others but a Temporary Law hath since 1694 been severall tymes revived, but comeing lately to determine, the last Sessions of the Burgesses of this assembly mett in October 1703 takeing noe notice of all their former acts, nor of his late Majestyes order in Councill, all confirmeing the Right of the said Secry to the profitts of the said Lycences, nor makeing any objections to his psonall behav<sup>r</sup> or conduct why he should be deemed unfitt or unworthy to Enjoy the Same, as he had ev<sup>r</sup> Enjoyed itt, did Settle, and Vest the profitts of the said Ordinary Lycences, by a new Bill in the Justices of Every respectue county to be applyed yearely toward the Defrayeing the publick charges of every respectue County in this Province, but p. 24 this Bill was dissented to by the honble the president

May itt please your Excy

This being the present case her Majestyes Secretary humbly referrs itt to yo<sup>r</sup> Serious consideraōn, and requesteth your Excys protection of himselfe, and the perpetuall Rights of his office, from which by the bill aforesaid, one third part of the profitts thereof are alienated and taken away, That your Excy would please to discountenance the said Bill, and Direct the Law to be revised in its old course and forme, since the country cannott be off without the use of such ordinaryes duely qualified and regulated

And yo<sup>r</sup> pet<sup>r</sup> shall as in duty bound ever pray

Tho: Laurence

Which said case being read and Debated & considered on Its resolved the following Message be sent in Answer thereto

By the house of Delegates

Aprill the 28<sup>th</sup> 1704

The case of Sir Thomas Laurence has been considered, this house haue noe Resentment, against Sir Thomas her Ma<sup>ty</sup>s present Secry nor anything to alleadge against his meritt but because the p<sup>s</sup>ent applicaon of them fines by the late bill