

Demands at the distance of ten years must necessarily lose more than half by the Interest. Lib. J. R.
& U. S.

That these hopes however fair and rational were disappointed your Excellency needs not be informed of, That no Bills of Credit were Struck, no Payment of Public allowed Claims made out of the Treasury in any manner whatsoever is evident and that your Excellency did the utmost in your Power to forward and Expedite the same your Petitioners are fully convinced, and do thus Publicly acknowledge.

That the short Recess of Assembly so necessary during the bad Season of the year being expired your Petitioners hoped the General Assembly at their next Meeting might have fallen on some Methods of adjusting their several Debates so necessary for the Well being of the Province, but the late Prorogation having placed the hopes of Relief at a much farther distance hath rendered the Circumstances of numbers of the unhappy Claimants truly deplorable their Credit being entirely ruined and indeed many have already been forced to run away from their private Creditors merely for want of having their publick dues discharged, and others for a present Relief have been forced to make over their Claims at a very Low Proportion. p. 499

That in Times of Great Distress every little delay of Relief is distracting and by frequent Repetitions become intolerable your Petitioners therefore humbly pray your Excellency will please to issue a Proclamation for calling the Assembly together as early in the Month of April as to your Excellency shall seem most Convenient, whereby the hope of the distressed People may be revived.

And your Petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray &c.

Signed by about Four hundred and fifty

5th March 1766.

Subscribers.

On Consideration of the above Petition this Board is of Opinion that as the Assembly stands prorogu'd to the 1st Monday in May next, the short Time that could be gained is not a Sufficient Reason for calling the Assembly sooner, they further submit to his Excellency whether it will not be proper to recommend in a particular manner the Case of the Petitioners to the Assembly at their next Meeting.

Read the Conviction of Negro Beck whereby it appears that the Justices of Calvert County had passed Sentence of Death on the said Negro for setting fire to and burning the Tobacco House and Tobacco therein contained belonging to a certain