

think the Customary fee of five hundred pounds of Tobacco for Peticōn, order and making out the said warrant is an unreasonable fee Especially considering that the Secretary or his Clerke does upon application (even of the most ignorant) advise and form the necessary Recitalls to each warrant, without a Regular Petition Setting forth the Severall Circumstances of the Case; and as to the Renewall of Warrants it is the persons own neglect who applies for them, if he does not make the proper Return or Renew them within the time limited. L. H. J.

Secondly, that to oblige merchants who Trade for Tobacco in Expectation of profit, to take another Commodity instead of Tobacco which will not reimburse them half of their principal, beside their Disappointment in Loading their Ships must be Destructive to Trade without which We Cannot Subsist, and inconsistent with Justice, w^{ch} ought to be our Guide

Wherefore we desire you to Exclude what relates to the Secretary and merchant with which Alterations this Bill will pass

Sign'd p order Sam^{ll} Skippon Cl Up Ho.

Whereupon Resolved that the Bill be amended accordingly And the following message is prepar'd Viz.

By the Lower House of Assembly Oct^r the 31st 1724.
May it please your Hon^{rs}

The Granting Speciall Warrants as observed by yo^r Hon^{rs} message this day by Coll^o Addison was indeed a matter of favour formerly when such warrants were to Affect all Cultivations & Improvm^{ts} how valuable soever for the Common purchase of Rough Lands; and this gave the fee or Gratuity of 500^l of Tobacco a reasonable foundation, But since the practice has been to value all Improvements and for the Purchaser to pay the value of them it becomes mere matter of Contract between his L^{pp} and the people and therefore as the favour which was the Consideration [for] the 500^l of Tobacco Ceases, We must insist that the Gratuity it Self ought to Cease. And we cannot find that the Clerks form or draw any Petitions for purchasers of Speciall Warrants but what they are otherwise Paid for And as to the fee for renewing Warrants we never understood it was taken on pretence of a fine for Neglect before your Honours Message gave us the Intimation. We thought it had been only claim'd as a fee or reasonable reward for the Service of renewing it and we are well Satisfied the fee of fifty pounds of Tobacco propos'd by the Bill was a Competency for it; But if such difficulties