

Thursday Morning 7th August 1729

U. H. J
August 7

This house met again according to Adjournment

Present as yesterday except Benjamin Tasker Esq^r

A Message from the lower house by M^r Holyday & M^r Johnson

By the Lower house of Assembly 7th August 1729

May it please your honours

This House hath observed that in your Message, of 6th of August by Benjamin Tasker Esq^r your Honours express a Surprize at our alledging that We had not heard any Attempts were made to procure his Lordships Dissent to the late Tobacco Law; when the fact is notorious; it would have been matter of surprize indeed, if We had alledged any such thing, but we are certain that if your Honours will please to peruse our Message again, you will find no such Allegation in it

This house agrees to all the Amendments proposed by your Honours to the supplementary Bill &c. except that of leaving out, and other Officers, which We conceive ought not to be for even the last Regulation of fees in the year 1725 (in your Honours Judgment then, & in the Opinion of this house still) contains ample & full Rewards to the sev^l Officers, for the services to be done by them; And We cannot think that any Reason can be assigned, why their fees, as well as other Tobacco debts should not be subject to a deduction, when the People who make the Tobacco to pay them, are under a legal Restraint, which will disable almost all the poorer sort, who shall have the misfortune to be concerned in Law suits (which your Honours know frequently happens) from paying all the Officers fees, & supporting their families: besides as the Bill is calculated for the General Advantage of the Country, And that the Officers will certainly participate of that Advantage, We conceive it to be but agreeable to natural Justice, that they should bear a proportionable Share of the burthen: If it should be alledged, that it is but contingent, whether any Advantage will accrue to the Country from the Law itself, and that the Officer by making a Deduction of his fees will sustain a Certain Loss, upon so uncertain a Prospect as is the Effect the proposed Reduction may have on the Trade, & that if the People should be disappointed in their hopes, the Officer will have no Reparation for his Loss, We beg Leave to answer that the Planter (if the Bill passes into a Law) will certainly be hindered of making so much Tobacco as he would make, was he at Liberty, with a View to raise the Value of what shall be made, that the Officer has an equal Chance as to the Event with the Planter, & therefore his Loss ought to be certain

And should the People have the misfortune of being disappointed, & that Tobacco should continue to be sold at the very low Rates it