

You complain of being kept out of any Session for Three Years past, meerly upon pretence (as you say) for the sake of this one Law; Pray, Gentlemen, what Foundation have you to urge, that we ever made such a pretence? This we possitively deny, and we further tell you, that it is notorious, the Assembly in 1738, was Prorogued and afterwards Dissolved on account of a Difference which prevented an Intercourse (as things then stood) between the two Houses; it is true the last meeting of Assembly in 1739 did end without a Session principally because you would not pass A Bill for Arms, &c and we are satisfied your Refusal at that Juncture will lay the blame of no Session on the proper Persons; so that only one Year and not three years, has yet passed without a Session on account of that Bill, and your own Journals will shew that we have not lost one Act of a publick nature by there being no Session at those two meetings (except a Bill that was brought in relating to Pork) for all such Acts still do and will Continue in Force tho there should be now no Session, but if there had been more Laws lost, that might have been really useful to the Country, it must and ought in Justice solely to be imputed to your House, who chose to expose the Country to any Inconveniencies rather than continue the only Fund established for it's necessary Defence and Security

You insinuate as if there were some other real Obstacle or not agreeing to a Session than the plausible Pretence of Three Pence per Hogshead; we are glad you will allow it a plausible Pretence, but we do most solemnly and sincerely assure you, and all those Strangers you speak of, that our true and only motive of not passing any Bill, is, lest a Session should be made and the Act of Three Pence for Arms &c should be dropt, and the Country be left destitute of the least Supply, perhaps when a War with France and Spain, by being continued longer than the time to which you limit the Bill, may require the greatest Fund we can raise for our defence; and of this Truth we doubt not you are convinced, otherwise you would have acquiesced with our Choice, if for no other Reason but to discover the Obstacle you hint at, and which you do not care to name; and this brings us to tell you why that Money has been hoarded up (as you call it) at London for these last seven years; you are sensible this Act can raise (communibus Annis) but about 300£ Sterling per Annum; If this money should be disposed of as fast as this Act raises it, there would not be till the end of the succeeding year, any money to supply any immediate necessary call in the Intermediate Time; besides the Annual Sum would certainly be too little for many sudden emergent occasions which might immediately require a large Sum of Money for our Defence Further you must allow that had the Money now in Bank laid out in Arms and Ammunition although we should perhaps have had many more Arms, and a

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No. 735

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