

Our Passing any of your Bills now on Our Table before We have from you the Bill for Arms &c^a

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With very great Concern we perceive it hardly possible for us to come to any Amicable and Friendly Agreement with your House as it is our sincere Inclination to do let us make never so many Concessions, new Demands are still made upon us, in Proportion to the Readiness we show in Complying with your Desires of this your present Message is a most flagrant and demonstrative Proof We have been now Five Weeks Contending about this Bill that is the Subject of it which is agreed on all Hands necessary to be continued in some Shape or other considering the dangerous Situation of Our Affairs, your first Objection was to the Clause for the Continuance of it to the next Session of Assembly which you declared was Contrary to the very Frame of Our Constitution, since by such a Clause any temporary Law might be made perpetual by any one part of the Legislature but to shew your Inclination in this time of an Actual War with Spain and an impending one with France you offered us the two Alternatives either of a longer time or a larger Sum. We chose one, you then flew to the other, which you again offered to us as your final Resolution, upon this to shew Our Desire to agree with you We came once more into your Terms and in a Conference settled the Heads of this Bill together with that for inlisting men for his Majestys Service, but after all this now comes your Message declaring your Resolution not to send up the Bill for Arms &c. for Defence of the Province p. 84

But your self Conviction of what you ought to do in Consequence of the Agreement by the Conferees of both Houses, has put you under a necessity of offering at some Excuse for not sending to Our House a Bill Conformable to what the Conferees agreed in relation to the Fund for Defence of the Province and this Excuse is founded on your too well grounded as you say Apprehensions of Our Design to pass your Bills now in Our House with Durations to a day certain only and not to the end of A Session as Usual, Be pleased Gentlemen to permit us to Ask whether this House has ever acquainted you with such a Design, Whether any Designs or Actions ought to be imputed by one House to another in the Course of Parliamentary Proceedings, before such designs or Actions are avowed by either House but even suppose you had the best Grounds imaginable for your Apprehensions can they justify you in keeping back a Bill which was in all its parts Setled and Agreed to not only by the Conferees but even by both Houses and is it not very extraordinary that you not only foretell without an Information from Our House what Our Resolutions will be on the second Reading of your Bills, but you Act and Resolve in the same manner as you think you would if We had already done what you apprehended Indeed Gentlemen such Dispositions must destroy all Confidence between the sev-