

the Conferees of both Houses, on the Heads and principal Parts of two Bills viz. One to raise a Fund for Defence of this Province, and the other to encourage Levies for his Majestys Service; these Bills were at the Conference and by all the Messages preceeding it, understood and Agreed to attend each other, and to be framed and sent up by your House to us, as soon as might be; you send to this House one of the Bills, but refuse to send the other for defence of the province, Because you have Apprehensions (as you say) of our Intention to make Alteration in the Duration of some of your Bills on our Table; We tell you, that we have not as yet Given those Bills a second reading; upon which it is notorious this House forms their Resolutions, either as to the Passage or Alterations of any Bills, and further that this House has never acquainted your House with any such Intentions pray, Gentlemen what answer do you make to This by your abovementioned Message why truly, none other, but that you take for granted, that we shall do what we have not yet done, nor have informed your House that we shall do; and because We do not let you know, what we shall or shall not determine on the second Reading of those Bills, your Apprehensions of Our Intentions (you say) are confirmed; If Gentlemen such Expectations as you now entertain were ever thought or heard of, in any part of the World where there are distinct Branches of the Legislature Your now Behaviour might be a matter of less Surprize; but as we are most certain, not the least Pretence of Reason or President can be urged for what you now insist on, we hope you will not be displeas'd with our absolute Refusal to comply, with what wou'd render that Branch of Legislature which shou'd concede to it, not only useless but ridiculous; when you talk of high Demands, can any thing be more so between Our two Houses, than for one to Insist on the other should declare, what it Intends to do with any Bill, before that Bill comes under a proper Consideration of the House? would not this Method of Proceeding not only anticipate every Resolution but even any Alteration at the proper time (which is with us at the second Reading) of Our first, and perhaps unreasonable Intention, And would it not be absurd in Terms for us to tell you, what Our Resolutions are upon a Bill, which our House has not resolv'd upon: Our Unwillingness to gratify you is not a matter of Form but your Expectations strike so Essentially at our Priviledge as a distinct Part of Legislature, that we make not the least Question of being every where justified; and if you will not let us have the Bill for defence of the Province because we will not make so dangerous as well as Ridiculous a Precedent, we must chuse the least of two Evils which we Judge, by not contributing to A Session, 'till you will be pleas'd to send us the Bill for Arms &c^a agreeable to Our Conference, will be to continue our present Act for Arms and Ammunition for our defence

U. H. J.
Calvert
Paper
No. 735

p. 91