

Points, so positively insisted on to be excepted out of the Matters of the Conference, we readily allow to be the most irregular Expedient that could be proposed, to obtain any good Issue from it.

L. H. J.
Liber No. 48
May 3

You are however careful, That your present Concessions shall not be drawn into Precedent, or any Way construed as derogatory to your ancient and undoubted Rights, &c. and we cannot but observe how willing you seem to be to make a Precedent against us, drawn from our Inspection Law, which, we think, is nothing at all to the present Case: We hope then, you will allow us to be cautious, at least for the future, of making Precedents derogatory to the ancient and undoubted Rights of the Government.

We would willingly avoid giving you any just Occasion of Offence, especially at this Time; but, here we must take the Liberty of asking you a Question or Two; Will you be contented with your undoubted Rights, and that Share in the Legislature, which, by the Constitution of this Government, you are entitled to? Or would you assume to yourselves the sole Power, not only of making Laws, but the Execution of them too? If nothing less than this last will satisfy you, we must tell you, that it is a Point, which we are determined not to agree to give up to you; and you could not reasonably expect, that, to obtain only a free Conference on the Subject in Question between the two Houses, that we should agree to your previously excepting from the Conference any Points of that Subject, in which the undoubted Rights of the Government, or Liberties of a free People, may be involved, and which ought to be carefully discussed, before any Determination concerning them can properly be made: Therefore we earnestly recommend these Matters to your further Consideration, in order, if possible, to bring about that desirable End, which, if obtained, can only make your Constituents any Amends for the tedious Length of this Session, and the heavy Charge and Burthen it must bring upon them. However, upon the whole Matter, and notwithstanding all your Precautions, we having considered the dangerous Situation of Affairs at this Time, and to demonstrate our Readiness to use every Endeavour in our Power, to obtain a good End of our Deliberation, do agree to a free Conference with you, and have accordingly named Philip Thomas, Esq; and Col. Benjamin Tasker, to confer with such Members of your House as you shall appoint; but at the same Time we will be so free as to tell you, that whether you will Confer with us on those Points excepted by you, or not, we will determine thereon, as we shall think proper, according to our undoubted Right.

Signed per Order, J. Ross, Cl. Up. Ho.

The House adjourns till the Morrow Morning at 8 of the Clock. p. 262