

Present as Yesterday

The following Message is Sent by Richard Lee Esq.<sup>r</sup>

By the Upper House of Assembly 26th. November 1763.

U. H. J.  
Liber No. 36  
Nov. 26

Gentlemen

We did not mean to give you any Offence by the Message You have been pleased to chuse for the Subject of your Animadversions, nor can we, on the Strictest Review, discover in it any Provocation for all that Asperity of Language, and Acrimony of Resentment of which it seems to have been the unfortunate Occasion p. 188

The Practice of retaining Bills sent to this House is founded upon Numerous Precedents, as those were upon Reason when a Measure is proposed, are we to be compelled at all Events either to give an Assent, or Dissent to it, when we have not Sufficient time to deliberate and determine upon the Propriety or Inpropriety of it, Is it not reasonable to make a reference to a future Session that there may be a Competent Interval for Consideration, when the Intricacy, and Importance of the Subject, or the extensive Influence of a Determination may require it,

But the Bill, it seems, is in your Opinion as Simple and plain, as the Object of it, is usefull and necessary, although it should appear by your Votes and Proceedings that a very great Majority, or even every Member of your House may be of that Opinion, must it therefore be a matter of such absolute Certainty as to exclude all possibility of any real Diversity of Sentiment among other People if not, why should our Hesitation provokc so great resentment? you are pleased to observe that you did not in your Message of the 22.<sup>d</sup> Instant desire us to come to any Determination upon the Bill, but that it might be returned to you with such Propositions for amendments as we might think Expedient, But surely, if you will stop One Moment to Consider, You can't fail to discover that we could not make any Propositions for Amendments till we had first determined, what was Proper to be rejected, and what fit to be adopted, or in other words, till we could come to a full and comprehensive Determination upon the Plan of the Bill & every part of the execution of it, To do this, we told you, we had not time, especially as several of our Members were by Sickness rendered unable to attend the Business of the House, you expressly said, in one of your Messages, that the Bill was Plain and Simple, and we inferred it to be your Opinion that it was perfect too, because we Presumed, that you would not otherwise have offered it for our Concurrence, as without such an Opinion it would have been a Strange Piece of Conduct to desire it might have the force of a Law, perhaps you imagined that we meant this Passage of our Message as a Citation from yours & that we had foisted imperfect where it was not to be found, But a review of our Message will evince your Mistake, and acquit us of Mis-