

L. H. J.  
Liber No. 52  
Dec. 16

wonderful you have not been pleased long ago to give it up entirely to the poor people and may we not hope from the amazing Increase of your Generosity and Compassion that a Session or two more will produce a Bill in your House to repeal so much of the Old Act as gives Allowance to your Members. But the case is widely different with us as we confess with Candour our private Circumstances are generally pretty strait and our Attendance here occasions great Inconveniencies to Ourselves and Families. We do not want to better our Fortunes by serving our Constituents we only want their Approbation quiet Consciences and an Indemnity ag.<sup>t</sup> necessary Expences Our Constituents will give their Approbation when we deserve it and are so far from desiring our Ruin in their Service that they are impatient to pay those Wages so justly and honourably earned

We do May it please your Honours upon the most mature Consideration really and seriously think that the Clerk of the Council ought not to be paid the usual Salary nor in the usual Manner whilst any of the Money taken in any Manner and under whatsoever Direction for the Support of Government remains unexpended and we are also well satisfied much of those Monies does remain unexpended that so much of that Money as is necessary ought to be applied towards Satisfaction of any reasonable Demand the Clerk of the Council may have for Official Services performed by him for the Public and therefore we cannot agree to make the Allowances you propose on the Journal nor can we for the Reasons given you before consent to a partial Payment of Public Creditors unless in Favour of those mentioned in the List of Debts. Under the unhappy Circumstances of a Disagreement in Sentiments between the two Houses in a Matter of so much Consequence to the Public as the Payment of the public Creditors and circulating so large a Sum as is necessary for that Purpose we now propose to you that we frame and pass a Bill to raise Money to defray the Expence of an Agent to be appointed and paid and directed by the House of Delegates that the Journal be now passed without inserting the Clerk of the Councils Salary and the future Payment to depend on the Determination of the King and Council. The Agents Bill itself may apply Money contingently suff.<sup>t</sup> to pay the whole of M<sup>r</sup> Ross's Claim: this Method will we think effectuate every good Purpose and we are sincerely desirous that it may be adopted by your Hon.<sup>rs</sup> by which "you must be acquitted of all sinister Designs to extort in the p<sup>r</sup>nt Conjunction any Concessions from the Rep<sup>r</sup>sentatives of the People derogatory from the Rights of their Constituents" Or "that availing yourselves of the Distresses of the Public C.<sup>rs</sup> and the Difficulties the People in General will be involved in from the Want of the Money now locked up from the Common Use you aim at an Advantage which would not be attempted at Another Crisis" should it be rejected we shall be equally concerned as your Honours and equally