

L. H. J.  
Liber No. 54  
Nov. 1

“By the Committee of Grievances 28:<sup>th</sup> May 1739

Your Committee observe that the fees of the several Officers and Ministers of this Province, their deputed Ministers, Servants and Officers are in themselves, as now paid, excessive great, and oppressive to the Subject; and that the said fees are under no Regulation of any Law of this Province that appears to your Committee. That the said Officers and Ministers, their deputed Ministers, Servants and Officers by Power of a Proclamation of the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary dated the 14:<sup>th</sup> Day of April 1733 and one Order of Council dated the 23:<sup>d</sup> Day of April 1735 and one other Order of Council dated the 15:<sup>th</sup> Day of July hereunto annexed, do charge, levy, raise, and receive, from his Majesty’s Subjects of this Province such fees so as aforesaid burthensome, great and oppressive, to the Discouragement, Ruin, and Undoing of many of his Majesty’s liege Subjects, and even the said Colour of Power is exceeded by the unlimited Will, and unbounded Avarice of many of the said Officers, Ministers and their Deputies

p. 138 “Your Committee humbly observe that by the Royal Charter, the Resolves of your Honourable House, and the Common Custom of this Province, the Subjects here are entituled to the Customs, Common Law, and the securitive Statutes of the Rights and Liberties of the Subjects in our Mother Country, Great Britain, by which Custom of Great Britain, such like fees of the Courts of Justice and the several Officers have been settled by Acts of Parliament; agreeable to which

“Your Committee further most humbly observe, that from the earliest Times since the Settlement of this Province by British Subjects, such fees have been adjusted and regulated by Acts of the General Assembly, and not by any other Power or Authority, till the aforesaid Proclamation.

“Your said Committee most humbly conceive, that such Proclamations or Orders of Council, charging his Majesty’s leige and dutiful Subjects with any Tax or Tallage, are invasions, on the fundamental Constitution of this Province, and against the lawful Rights and Liberties of the Subject, and are, in themselves, and their Consequences, very grievous and oppressive to his Majesty’s leige Subjects, the Inhabitants of this Province: but the same is humbly submitted to the Consideration of your Honble House.

Signed p Order of the Committee Bordley Cl.”

On reading the Report, the Question was put, That the House concur therewith.

Resolved in the Affirmative

The Order of the Day for taking into Consideration the Report of the Committee of Grievances and Courts of Justice of the 30:<sup>th</sup> of October 1770 being read; the House resolves as follows—