

Sent to the Upper House by Mr. Dashiell and Mr. Purnell. They return, and acquaint M.<sup>r</sup> Speaker they delivered the Bill

L. H. J.  
Liber No. 54  
Nov. 15

M.<sup>r</sup> Johnson brings in, and delivers to M.<sup>r</sup> Speaker the following Message.

By the Lower House of Assembly, November 15.<sup>th</sup> 1770

May it please your Honours,

We are apprehensive, from your Message of the 13.<sup>th</sup> Instant, that there is some Misunderstanding between Us about the Subject Matter of a Conference: We have no Desire to reduce the ffees of Officers so low, as not to leave a sufficient and proper Support; and if it shall appear, that the Regulation proposed by us would be insufficient for that Purpose, we shall be willing to make such Additions as we hope will be thought sufficient and proper in the Opinion of the World. Nothing now remains to be settled but the ffees of Officers and the Provisions thereon dependent; the Mode of recovering Penalties, the Time of closing the Inspection, and the last Proposition contained in your Message of the tenth Instant by John Ridout, Esq; On these Points of our Bill we were and still are willing, and now propose to go into a Conference, as the most likely Expedient to bring about an Agreement. Your Honours, by a Bill sent from your House the thirty first of October, which lay before us at the Time of the last Prorogation, on the second Instant, to revive the late Inspection Law, and the Supplementary Act thereto, "except all such Part and Parts, as limited, or in any Manner concerned the ffees of Officers and Lawyers, and the Poll Tax due to the Clergy," proposed to separate the Regulation of the Staple from that of the ffees of Officers, and continue that Part of the late Inspection Law which provided for the Payment of the Levies. In your Message of the Tenth Instant you agreed, "That all Persons, whether they should make Tobacco or not, might elect to pay all ffees in Tobacco, or Money, in the Manner provided by the Bill"; and proposed, "that the Poll Tax might be paid in the same Manner, with the Difference only, that in Case of Payment in Money, the Clergy might receive on 32 instead of 30 per Poll"; which this House acceded to, and informed your Honours of, by our Message of the Twelfth Instant: Therefore, should your Honours again wa[i]ve a Conference on the Terms we now propose, we make you another Proposition: Strike out all those Parts of the Bill that relate to the Officers ffees, which will be agreeable to the Plan of the Bill you set us; and as Nothing of Importance will then remain in Dispute, except the Time of closing the Inspection, which the People much wish to have extended to the 20.<sup>th</sup> of August, we have the greatest Expectation, that this, and the other Matters of less Consideration, may be easily adjusted by a Conference, which we request for that Purpose; and the Bill

p. 168