

I am accordingly of Opinion that the Petition should be rejected
If His Ldp thinks otherwise or shall be inclined to favour the
Gentlemen's Request - be pleased to advise me thereof that I may
signify His Ldp's Pleasure to the Naval Officers, till I receive
Your Letter the Petition will lye & I shall avoid giving any
Answer to the Person by whom it was presented. &c.

Copy of a Letter to His Ldp dated the 30 June 1757.

My Ld.

I do myself the honour to acknowledge the Receipt of Your Ldp's
Instructions dated the 16 Decem^r last whereby Your Ldp is pleased to
signify Your Assent to the several Acts of Assembly that were made
on Feby 1756, which Assent I shall take Care to have recorded
agreeable to Your Ldp's Orders - Your Ldp may be also assured that
I shall strictly observe & conform to the Charge that You are pleased
to give concerning the due Collection of the Impost on Tob^o for the Sup-
port of Gov^t & the Tonnage Duty. I hope Your Ldp did not suspect
from any thing that I have writ on that Subject that I was myself
inclined or by any others advised to make any Conception on that
point? I do assure Your Ldp that Nothing was farther from my
Thoughts & I cannot but flatter myself that Your Ldp is con-
vinced from what I writ on this Subject; & the State which
I transmitted, that I was convinced in my own Conscience that
Your Ldp's Right was inviolable & that it would stand any
Scrutiny or Examination, whatever. It gives me great pleasure
to find that Your Ldp approves of my Conduct with regard to the

Neutral