

Reasons which certainly ought to have been perused We will give you our Reasons if you had any respect for the Governours or had any regard to the good of the people. That sent you hither to do & consent to such things as by common Council of the Province shall happen to be ordained which common Council can never be had without debate

Now to speak particularly to the reason of your paper to wit, (but we humbly conceive that it stands not without Liberty & Privileges to debate any matter at large there. To this Wearisome Conferences are not against your Privileges, & Conference is not only to no purpose but no Conference at all unless for the discussion of the reasons that can be for or against the Matter conferred on there be debate at large

And secondly you mistake us & your Privileges too, for we desire only a full & free debate with you all, & that we may thoroughly understand the Case & according to the weight of the reason to be alledged by every particular Person to prepare ourselves for a reasonable Determination & Resolution Which as we intend to make apart from you in our own House so you may make it by yourselves in your own House, only take this rule by the way Obstinate Shortitude is as pernicious to the common Wealth as fearful Slowness & therefore Conferences are necessary. *neq; timida probitas nec improba fortitudo* *Reipublica Utilis est* says My Lord Cook in his Jurisdiction of Paulliaments Both Houses in England once sat together & therefore debated together by consequence, yea even Voted together & therefore it can be no breach of your Privileges to debate with us the Time of our sitting together is not out of the memory of Man, and therefore you cannot prescribe to the contrary, & were it not for the respect we bear my Lords positive Commands to keep the Houses apart (Who in the manner of holding assemblies is by his Oath tyed to no Rules) We might perhaps tell you that we find just Cause to come & Vote with you also, Upon Consideration of all which we must tell you that we do expect you should come this day & confer with us & debate the Reasons for & against that Act for Encouragement of Trade with us & that you go into your own house afterwards & freely give y^r. Votes for or against it as the Reasons urged shall move you, This last offer if you refuse we do hereby protest our own Innocency & that whatsoever certainly shall befall the Province either by the decay of our Trade or the Invasions of our Enemy forward of Arms & Ammunition now not to be purchased by Tob^o. though we have vast Quantities lying by us the Guilt lies at your Door & lastly tell you it is yourselves in Person & not Answers in paper that we expect from you

J. G.

Ordered that the Act for Encouragement of Trade & the Act for advance of more staple Commodities than Tobacco be sent to the Lower