

(109)  
pursue the rights and Privileges we are Instructed with a Repre-  
sentatives of his Majesty's loyal and dutiful Subjects of this Province

Signed by Order

W. Bladen (Speaker)

Ordered that an Answer to the same be drawn up to be sent which  
was done as follows viz<sup>t</sup>

By his Excellency the Governor and Council<sup>rs</sup>  
May the 4<sup>th</sup> 1696

The Message by Captain Tasker and several other of the House  
of Assembly sent has been here read and Considered in a manner where to  
his Excellency is pleased to declare that by the Order of Council of the  
first of May Instant relating to the Clerks and other Persons having  
Recourse to the Offices<sup>s</sup> it was not intended that the Privileges  
of the House should be any way's Encroached upon neither does this  
Board take it to be any Breach at all but on the contrary do hold it to  
be a Breach of Magna Charta and of the Liberties of the People that  
the Kings Officers should be shut up especially considering Recourse  
might be had to the same without going through the Place where the  
House sits and it is recommended by the Board to the House that  
they would pursue the several Copies of the Counties Levies herewith sent  
in Order to make enquires and examine whether the several Articles  
therein charged & allowed are not against the Privileges of the People  
and known Laws of this Province Tallot County Levy being not yet  
returned shall be laid also before the House when received as to the Houses  
taken notice that the said Order was Affixed to the Door of their House  
and on the Sabbath day it was brought to them it was Affixed to the Church  
door that all persons might have publick notice thereof and if the said Order  
was not taken down that night the fault lies in the negligence of some of  
their Officers

His Excellency is pleased in particular to Represent that he is sorry  
to find that the Country is so far engaged and Burthened Inasmuch  
that the House cannot conveniently meet so often to dispatch the necessary  
Business impendent upon them by Reason of the Great Charge thereby  
Accruing doe therefore propose that they would make a Law that either  
two Delegates might only be chose to be sent out of each County to serve  
or that some Ordinance or Law might pass for the House to appoint two  
Members at a time to come out of each County to dispatch the Countys  
Business whereby the Taxes will be Eased and the Country not groan  
under that Burthen for that it is not known how soon the Assembly  
may again meet by Reason his Majesty's Royal Commands are not