

to your Excellency that the Popish Priests in Charles County do of their own Accord in  
this buying and violent Mortality in that County make it their Business to go up  
and down the County to persons houses when dying and frantick and endeavour  
to seduce and make proselytes of them and in such Condition boldly presume to ad-  
minister the Sacrament to them we have put it to the Vote in the House if a Law  
should be made to restrain such their presumption or not and have concluded to make  
such Law at present but humbly intreat your Excellency that you would be pleased  
to issue your Proclamation to restrain and prohibit such their Extravagance and pre-  
sumptuous behaviour

Signed J. Order W. Bladen Esq. D<sup>n</sup> D<sup>l</sup>

Brought from the House of Delegates by Mr. Hill and three other members the  
following Message viz

By the House of Delegates March the 21<sup>st</sup> 1697

Your Excellency's Commands to attend you in Council sent by the Honble Tho<sup>s</sup>  
Tench Esq & James Frisby Esq we have received and assure your Excellency that we  
are very ready to Obeey them but forasmuch as our Speaker cannot without manifest  
danger of his life venture out so far from his Chamber we humbly desire your Excellency  
will be pleased to defer such our waiting upon you for a day or two hoping in that time  
our Speaker may be able to attend your Excellency with the House

We conceive the only thing about the Indians uncontroverted is what should be done  
in case they do not come in. If it be so we humbly address your Excellency that we  
may be admitted to debate it here and send our Resolutions therein to your Excellency  
and his Majesty's honourable Council

Signed J. Order W. Bladen Esq. D<sup>n</sup> D<sup>l</sup>

In Answer to which

By his Exc<sup>ty</sup> the Governour and Council in asembly March  
the 21<sup>st</sup> 1697

The Message by Mr. Miller and three other of the House members this day sent was  
received and here read. This Board being willing to answer the House's request in defer-  
ring the Conference about the Indians for a day or two longer but what do signify that  
a several other matters which will be by them also necessary to be continued

Signed J. Order Hen. Denton Esq. Sec<sup>y</sup>

It is Remarked that the Request of the House for deferring the Conference by Reason  
of the Speakers being sick is an unparliamentary way of Proceeding

The Report of the Committee about Indian Affairs read. And upon reading the  
second Article advised that the way about sending to the Indians be continued

The third Article is agreed to and recommended the said Rangers be paid of

And it being Considered after what manner the Indians shall be treated with &  
how sent to if his Excellency the Governour of Virginia do not consent to suffer any person  
to go through that Governour to them

That the withdrawing or keeping the Rangers at the Garrison at Potomack be  
considered

A Bill for restraining the Extortions of Sheriffs read the first time and recommended  
that a Clause therein be added to restrain the Sheriff from exacting double fees from Pri-  
soners and it hath been represented the Sheriff of Talbot County has done making Persons  
that has been under two or three several Executions pay so many twenty pounds of Tobacco  
a day for fees, as there were Executions, and it is recommended also that a Clause be ad-  
ded for Regulating the Clerk of the Indictments fees in sending out so many Venues  
for creating fees be incouraged

A Bill for reviving Cecil County process read the first time and will pass with  
amendment