

False News is the Opinion of the Conferences its unanimously agreed by the Conferences that the Justices of the several Counties have Authority to bind such Conferences over to their next Court who have Power to punish them as Disturbers of the Peace and that they cannot find any way to make a Law to restrain such Reports but will accept innocent Confessors to the Malice of Informers

As to that Part of Sir Thomas Lawrences Complaint touching Ordinary Licenses it is the Opinion of the Conferences that Sir Thomas Lawrence has no Right to the Tines on Ordinary Licenses and that a full Answer be drawn to his Complaint and sent to her Majesty for her better Information and that it be therein mentioned that the Books of the Secretaries Office is vastly misused of late through the Multitude of Business therein, and that by Means of the late War or Product of this Province is become of so little Value that the Ordinary Licenses Money be continued to her Majesty a Help to defray the Charge of the several Counties of this Province as by the former Act of Assembly —

Signed & Order Thomas Jones Secy

By the House of Delegates December 3rd 1708

The above Report being read and considered the House unanimously concur therewith and humbly desire your Excellency will please to consent that the several Bills therein mentioned may be brought in and reviewed

Signed & Order Rich^d Dallam Secy

By the Council in Assembly 3rd December 1708. The Report from the Conferences being read at the Board we join with the House that her Majesty be addressed as proposed and that till her Pleasure be known an Ordinance of Assembly be made to ascertain the Gauge of Tobacco Casks, misse the Tines on the Coopers and Masters of Ships and permit the Masters to put unsizable Hogheads on Shore but cannot agree to an Act of Assembly being contrary to her Majesty's positive Orders. And as to the Bill against Divulgers of false News we shall not further insist thereon at present and think it reasonable you should give your Answer to Sir Thomas Lawrences Complaint and address her Majesty therein. But seeing her Majesty has laid her Commands on his Excellency to propose a Law to you for settling these Tines on the Secretary we cannot consent to any Law whereby they be otherwise applied till her Majesty is pleased to give Leave therefor.

Signed & Order W^m Bladen Secy

Mr Matthew Mason's Petition to confirm a Lease made to him by Robert Smith Esq; read and Leave given to bring in a Bill next Session of Assembly as prayed. —