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For the time being, the present Governour continues Governour by  
His Majesty's approbation according to act of Parliament till he  
be superseded. Therefore while he continues Governour he has  
right to all Duties payable to the Governour for the time being of  
which this is one in case of the present Governour's absence the Gentlemen  
appointed to preside would act as a president of the Council but  
not as Governour for the time being.

In case of the present Governour's death before another Commission  
is cited the Gentlemen appointed to preside would act as a Governour  
as Col<sup>o</sup> Lloyd did on the death of Governour Seymour in which case  
there was not a person in being but Col<sup>o</sup> Lloyd that could be said to be  
the Governour for the time being but as you propose in this case there  
would be a Governour for the time being that would not enjoy the  
three pence p<sup>er</sup> ton which as we take it would be a contradiction to  
the Express letters of that act.

We frankly communicate to you the reasons of our opinions  
and should be glad to know the reason of yours that we might  
come to a right understanding in this matter tho on the whole we  
must conclude that neither our opinions nor yours can alter  
the plain signification of the Law itself.

Signed for order J. Beall Ch<sup>o</sup> of the Ho<sup>u</sup>s.

Mr Speaker,

As you answered to what I desired you to communicate  
to the house in relation to the three pence p<sup>er</sup> ton to the Governour  
was that it is the sense of your house it is due to the person  
presiding in the absence of the Governour and accordingly have  
passed a vote on it.

I must observe to you that the house have not duly  
considered that Law and also that this Law was enacted when  
this Government was immediately under the Crown and still lies  
before it for its assent or dissent.

Again I cannot take those to be friends either to the  
Lord Prop<sup>er</sup> or their Country who would have his Eyes  
Inclination alone (tho signified in an Instruction to have the  
Sanction of a Law.

In a word I insist upon it the three pence p<sup>er</sup> ton is due to me  
as Governour until my Commission is legally superseded and  
resolve to make all proper Methods to maintain it.

April the 21<sup>st</sup> 1720.

John Hart

Col<sup>o</sup> Machel and the other Gentlemen appointed being in the  
report from the Gentlemen appointed by both Houses to make  
a further Representation of the grievances against Maurice