

make on them? And is it not without Precedent, that the Government under Pretence of imminent Danger, demands Money of the People, and when it is offered according to request, it will not be accepted unless they give up their Liberties along with it?

Our Duty obliges us to take care of the Province in every respect, and not, while we are making Provision against Enemies Abroad, leave it a Prey to those at Home.

You are pleased to say that your House never told us of this being your Design, but, pray, if you had no such Intention, would it not have been easy to have said so, in your Message of Yesterday? Or had our former Apprehensions been upon slender grounds, can we doubt of the Matter now, after the indirect manner you have answered our Message of the 27th Instant about it?

The Bill for Arms and Ammunition is ready drawn up, agreeable to what was consented to by the Conferees of both Houses, and nothing hinders the sending it to your Honours but the uncertainty we are under of having those other Bills with their usual Duration; it is only in your Power to remove our Fears by satisfying us in this Point: And if for this Reason you shall think fit to forego that other so necessary Bill, let the Consequence lie at your Door.

The Precedency, you so often mention, we must again tell you, can have no manner of weight, since it is well known all the Laws made in a Session will receive their last Sanction at the very same time.

Had your Honours been pleased to communicate this Scheme to us at our first Meeting, the Business might have been short, and some Thousands of Pounds saved to the Country; But we are now sorry to find that the obtaining of Powers, inconsistent with the Rights and Liberties of a Free People, seems to be the principal View, whilst *Zeal* for his Majesty's Service, and Safety of those People, accompanied with groundless personal Reflections obliquely aimed at the Members of this House, is made the specious Pretence.

Since then the keeping in our Possession the Bill for Arms, &c. is the only Means left us to secure the accustomed Duration of our other Laws, we request your Honours (in whole Power alone it is) to remove that Obstacle, and then that Bill will be immediately sent you; otherwise we do and always shall persist in our former Resolution.

After what is here said, and the Offer now made, we shall not be afraid of submitting our Conduct in this Matter to his Sacred Majesty or his Ministry at Home, and shall take care that Things be represented there in their true Light.

Signed per Order, *M. Macnemara*, Cl. Lo. Ho.