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informed your House that we shall do; and because we do not let you know, what we shall or shall not determine on the Second Reading of these Bills, your Apprehensions of our Intentions (you say) are confirmed; If, *Gentlemen*, such Expectations as you now entertain were ever thought or heard of in any Part of the World, where there are distinct Branches of Legislature, your now Behaviour might be a Matter of less Surprize; but as we are most certain, not the least Pretence of Reason or Precedent can be urged for what you now insist on, we hope you will not be displeas'd with our absolute Refusal to comply, with what would render that Branch of Legislature which should concede to it; not only useless but ridiculous; when you talk of high Demands, can any thing be more so, between our two Houses, than for One to insist the Other should declare, what It intends to do with any Bill, before that Bill comes under a proper Consideration of the House? would not this Method of Proceeding not only anticipate every Resolution, but even any Alteration at the proper time (which is with us at the Second Reading) of our first, and perhaps unreasonable Intention? And would it not be absurd in Terms for us to tell you, what our Resolutions are upon a Bill, which our House has not Resolved upon: Our unwillingness to gratify you is not a Matter of Form, but your Expectations strike so essentially at our Privilege as a distinct Part of Legislature, that we make not the least Question of being every where justified; And if you will not let us have the Bill for Defence of the Province, because we will not make so dangerous as well as ridiculous a Precedent, we must chuse the least of two Evils, which we judge, by not contributing to a Session, 'till you will be pleas'd to send us the Bill for Arms &c. agreeable to our Conference, will be to continue our present Act for Arms and Ammunition for our Defence.

As what is now said goes to almost all the several Parts of your Message about the Duration of your Bills, we shall only repeat, that it will be time enough for us to shew the reasonableness of any alteration of their Duration, when we make it, and before that is done, we shall not give you or ourselves the needless trouble to justify it.

We are singularly unfortunate, that when we endeavour by the strictest Watch on our Expressions to avoid every misbecoming Word towards your House, or it's Members, you tax us with Personal Reflections obliquely aimed at your Members; But your own Conscience, how little any of your Members deserve Reflection, will readily prevail with you to believe us when we assure you of having no intentions to reflect obliquely on any of you.

As we are sensible your Duty obliges you to take Care of the Province

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