

“ of this Province, and for which he ought in Reason to be paid by a Tax on the People of this Province, we will readily insert in the Journal what may appear to us to be reasonable.”

Your Honours will be kind enough to excuse, or, at least the Necessity will apologize for, the long Quotations of old Messages, which, when fairly recited, without any Comment, sufficiently prove this Truth, that the Message recited by your Honours, as connected with that which occasioned it, cannot fairly be construed to imply any other Public Services than those which Mr. *Ross* might do, as Clerk of the Council, required by the Laws in Force to be done by him.

What Reasons your Honours have for Believing, that what did appear from the Accounts, before they were laid before us, was pretty generally known, as in any Manner relating to the Knowledge of this House, we are entirely ignorant; for, tho' we do admit, that many of our Members did hear, by circulating Reports, that an Account of Mr. *Ross's* Services, exceeding in the Amount the usual Salary for the same Time, was in the Upper House, there was equal good Authority to believe, he did not intend to make any Claim on the Public for his Services as Clerk of the Council, and that the Journal would pass the Upper House without such Allowance; what was Reported, as to his making no such Claim, was confirmed by his not laying it before our Committee, as he had generally done for upwards of Thirty Years before: But we believe, when you consider the Consequences of this House taking Notice, in an unparliamentary Manner, of any Thing that is before Yours, or the Conjectures of idle People as to your Resolutions, you would be unwilling to dispense with the Practice of Messages, from the frequent groundless and unfavourable Reports respecting your Conduct. The late Lower House had often refused to make Mr. *Ross's* Journal Allowances of annual Salaries as Clerk of the Council; your House was often apprized of those Resolutions by Messages; Mr. *Ross* did not make his usual Claim this Session; you had his Account before you, sanctioned by a Report of your own Committee; but this House, it seems, without any Parliamentary Knowledge of its being there, must ask for a Sight of it, after you had omitted the Opportunity of sending it down with the Journal. We may possibly be mistaken as to our Duty; but we apprehend it to be, to liquidate, according to Justice, and do what we can, towards the Payment of Accounts laid before us against the Public, without troubling ourselves in Search after, or hunting up those Accounts; for, we speak from Experience, and give this, as one Instance, that Unjust Claims against the Public, are more frequently made, than Just Ones are omitted to be made. The Account, however, we at last had; so far from making any Punctilio about applying for it, this House repeated the old Refusal, to pay lumping Salaries, without an Account of Services, and by that Means drew it forth: What Sort of an Account it is, pretty clearly appears from what hath been said before; to which this Remark may be added, that it seems to have been drawn up, Omissions supplied, and Approbation given to it, rather with an Eye to swell the Account, than the proper Attention to the Charges, in the Truth and Quantum of them. Your Honours, and Mr. *Ross*, were at a good deal of useless Trouble in this Business; for, when we intimated a Desire of having an Account, particularizing the Services done by him, as Clerk of the Council, by Direction of the Laws of this Province, we are furnished with an indistinct Account of Council Proceedings, from *May*, 1756, to *October*, 1765; and the whole Matters we wanted Information about, that is, the Services done by the Direction of the Laws of this Province, and on which the Upper House, in the Year 1756, seems to found the principal Part of his Merit, are totally omitted in the Account, and only mentioned in a general Lumping Way, in a Memorandum at the Bottom of it. May we presume, in some Measure, to supply the Omission, by saying, the only Services done by the Clerk of the Council, under Direction of any Laws of this Province, that we know of, is his Receipt of Naval Officers Bonds, and the receiving and laying before the Governor the Recommendations of Inspectors by the Vestries: There may possibly be some such other Trifle, but we really know of none; and, if there had been any other of any Consequence, we suppose Mr. *Ross*, who is so well acquainted with the Duties of Clerk of the Council, would, at your Honours Request, have enumerated them.

Thus then stands the Matter without Regard to Precedent; you insist that Mr. *Ross* shall have an Allowance in the Journal of Nine Thousand Six Hundred Pounds of Tobacco *per Annum*, for a Salary as Clerk of the Council; you contend he ought to be allowed Something from his being a necessary Servant to those who are intrusted with the Executive Powers of Government; and to prove what that Something ought to be, or for no Purpose that we know of, you have laid his Account of Services before us: We insist that the Account proves the Contrary than the Purpose to which it was adduced, and we hope, have given satisfactory Reasons for the Assertion; we say too, by whom and how the Payment ought to be made is as necessary to be considered as whether any Payment is to be made; that there is already Money sufficient collected, rightfully or wrongfully alters not the Case, for the Support of Government, not only to pay this, but every other necessary Expence of Government; and that the Clerk of the Council being necessary, as you intimate, to the executive Part of Government, some of whose Services too, from the Nature of them, cannot, as you say, be reduced to Account, that therefore he ought to be paid out of the Money collected for the Support of Government; the Propriety of this Application, was the Office *now* to be erected, we think stands sufficiently evinced, and Precedent, the only Argument for a Journal Allowance at this Time, remains to be Answered. On this Head, permit us to quote the Words of a celebrated Author, a very good Judge on the Subject, whose Sentiments on Matters of greater Consequence than the present Dispute, are universally admired