

at the Request of their Representatives, so well known to be their Sense, a natural and indubitable Right, and tho' the Obstructions it has hitherto met with, may have procured temporary Conveniencies to the Government, the Termination of all Points in Dispute, should we think, be much more desirable to the Government itself.

With what Idea of Justice, or real Utility to the Country, your Honours have made the specious Proposition, "that all the public Creditors be immediately satisfied, except the Members of the Two Houses and the Clerk of the Council, who may wait till a Decision of the Question shall be notified to us," we cannot conceive; your own Allowances you may with Justice defer the Payment of as long as you please; but this House, actuated by no other Motives than those of Justice, and an Attachment to the Rights and Interests of their Constituents cannot Esteem their best Endeavours of so little Merit, as to place them on a Level with the Clerk of the Council as to his unjust Claim. Have your Honours objected in any Manner to the Justice of our Allowances? Are they not given by an express Law? Is there a more rightful Claim in the Journal? Suppose the King and Council should determine in Favour of the Salary to the Clerk of the Council, would the Clerk of the Council get his Salary the sooner, or be in any Manner benefited by our laying out of our just Rights? Thinking the Expences incurred on Account of the late War ought, from the peculiar Hardships to the Claimants, to be preferred in Payment to all other Public Debts, we sent a List of those Debts, and a Bill for their immediate Payment, to your House; you were pleased to indorse your Negative for no other Reason than "that there were other Persons equally entitled to Satisfaction from the Public, who ought to be considered at the same Time with those who were favoured by the above Bill." How then can you, the same Session, propose such an Inconsistency to your own Reasoning? Besides a full Payment would immediately circulate the more Money, and consequently be more beneficial to the Country. But we are apprehensive that the Payment of those Debts, which we still wish instant, was obstructed, and the new Proposition of a partial Payment made, from political Motives: Offers of this kind have been often made by your, and as often refused by the Lower House, and the World hath as often applauded the Prudence of the Lower House in not conceding to Propositions so dangerous to Liberty. Your ample Private Fortunes, the Lucrative Offices your Honours enjoy, make the daily Allowance from the Country contemptible to you; is it not wonderful you have not been pleased long ago to give it up entirely to the Poor People? And may we not hope, from the amazing Increase of your Generosity and Compassion, that a Session or two more will produce a Bill in your House to Repeal so much of the old Act as gives Allowance to your Members. But the Case is widely different with us: We confess with Candour our private Circumstances are generally pretty strait, and our Attendance here occasions great Inconveniencies to Ourselves and Families. We do not want to Better our Fortunes by serving our Constituents, we only want their Approbation, quiet Consciences, and an Indemnity against necessary Expences. Our Constituents will give their Approbation when we deserve it, and are so far from desiring our Ruin in their Service, that they are Impatient to pay those Wages so justly and honourably Earned.

We do, *May it please your Honours*, upon the most mature Consideration, really and seriously think, that the Clerk of the Council ought not to be paid the usual Salary, nor in the usual Manner, whilst any of the Money taken in any Manner, and under whatsoever Direction, for the Support of Government remains unexpended; and we are also well satisfied, much of those Monies does remain unexpended, that so much of that Money as is necessary, ought to be applied towards Satisfaction of any reasonable Demand the Clerk of the Council may have, for official Services performed by him for the Public, and therefore we cannot agree to make the Allowances you propose on the Journal; nor can we, for the Reasons given you before, consent to a partial Payment of Public Creditors, unless in Favour of those mentioned in the List of Debts. Under the unhappy Circumstances of a Disagreement in Sentiments between the Two Houses, in a Matter of so much Consequence to the Public as the Payment of the Public Creditors, and circulating so large a Sum as is necessary for that Purpose; we now propose to you, that we frame and pass a Bill to raise Money to defray the Expence of an Agent to be appointed and paid, and directed by the House of Delegates, that the Journal be now passed without Inserting the Clerk of the Council's Salary, and the future Payment to depend on the Determination of the King and Council. The Agents Bill itself may apply Money contingently sufficient to pay the Whole of Mr. *Rofs's* Claim; this Method will we think effectuate every good Purpose, and we are sincerely desirous that it may be adopted by your Honours, by which "you must be acquitted of all sinister Designs to extort, in the present Conjuncture, any Concessions from the Representatives of the People derogatory from the Rights of their Constituents;" or, "that availing yourselves of the Distresses of the Public Creditors, and the Difficulties the People in general will be involved in from the want of Money now locked up from the common Use, you aim at an Advantage which would not be attempted at another Crisis." Should it be rejected, we shall be equally concerned as your Honours, and equally consoled from the Reflection, that we have done every Thing in our Power to effectuate public and private Happiness.

One of our Members now lying dangerously ill in the Small-Pox, and the just Fears of many others of that infectious and dangerous Disorder, will make it impossible to keep a sufficient Number of our Members much longer together to compose an House, we therefore request your