

ORDERED, That the said Report be read, and it was read accordingly.

Dr. *John Boyd* appeared at the Bar of this House in Obedience to the Order of last Night, and being asked what he had to offer in Excuse for having signed the Petition of the subscribing Inhabitants of *Baltimore* County preferred to the Upper House last Session; said, that if the Paper which was read to him the Evening before was a true Copy of the Petition alluded to, he did not believe, though his Name was to it, that he ever subscribed it, for that he found there were Expressions made Use of which were highly derogatory to the Dignity and Honour of this House; and further said, it was more than probable, that some Person thinking he would have signed the Petition, had it been shewed to him, put his Name to it without his Knowledge.

ORDERED, That he be discharged.

*Thomas Fitzhugh*, Esq; from the Upper House, delivers to Mr. Speaker the Petition of *Edward Fitzhugh*, *Solomon Wright*, Attorney at Law, *Mary Wright*, Widow. *Francis Barnes*, Junr. and *Paulina Murph.*, Farmers, and *James Cowfey*, House Joiner, all of *Queen-Anne's* County, *Thomas Cowfey*, and *John Cowfey*, Mariners, and *Daniel Keilam*, of *Talbot* County, Planter.

ORDERED, That Mr. *John Hill*, Mr. *Chase*, Mr. *W. Pace*, Mr. *Johnson*, and Mr. *Mackall*, be a Committee to enquire into the Facts set forth in the said Petition, and report the same, as they shall appear to them to the House.

The Bill, entitled, *An Act to continue the Power of Inspectors, and for other Purposes therein mentioned*: Read a Second Time and will pass. Sent to the Upper House by Mr. *Gantt* and Mr. *Beall*.

They return, and acquaint Mr. Speaker they delivered the Bill.

Mr. *Grahame* brings in, and delivers to Mr. Speaker, a Bill, entitled, *An Act to enable the Commissioners for emitting Bills of Credit, to pay to John Duckett, William Mills, and John Peacock, the Sums of Money therein mentioned*: Which was read the First and Second Time, by an especial Order, and will pass. Sent to the Upper House by Mr. *Deye* and Mr. *Ware*.

They return, and acquaint Mr. Speaker they delivered the Bill.

Mr. *Worthington* brings in, and delivers to Mr. Speaker the following Report:

By the COMMITTEE of GRIEVANCES and COURTS of JUSTICE, October 30, 1770.

YOUR Committee beg Leave to report to your honourable House, that being informed *William Stewart*, Clerk of the Land-Office, had taken a Note of Hand in that Office, from *William Hamlin*, with Security for the Payment of a Sum of Money on the issuing a Warrant of Escheat in the said Office to the said *Hamlin*; and that the said *William Stewart* did administer to the said *Hamlin*, the Oath of not making Tobacco heretofore used. The said *William Stewart* attended your Committee by Order, and acquainted your Committee, that upon Application made to him, as Clerk of the Land-Office, by *William Hamlin*, for a Special Warrant of Escheat, he applied to *Benedict Calvert* and *George Stuart*, Esqrs. his Principals, by Letter, for their Directions as to the Receipt or Security of the Fees of the said Office: That they both came into the Office and gave him verbal Directions, that he should, upon any Application to him for Business to be done in that Office, take the Fees allowed by the late Inspection Law, or Notes thereon, or for the Payment of such Fees as should be allowed by any Regulation made by the Assembly, or by Proclamation: That if a Person made no Tobacco, and therefore purposed to pay in Money, at 12/6, that then he should administer the Oath of not making Tobacco, heretofore in Use, to such Person: That if ready Money was offered by those who made Tobacco, that then the Fees should be received at 15s. per Hundred: That in Consequence of such Directions, he, the said *William Stewart*, (being a Justice of the Peace) administered such Oath to the said *William Hamlin*, and took of him and *Robert Buchanan*, as his Security, a Promissory Note, as well as in a Course of Business Two other Notes for special Warrants, Copies of which Notes are hereto annexed, and which the said *William Stewart* informed your Committee are the only Securities taken for the Payment of Fees in that Office: That he received from each of the Parties Ten Shillings to himself, for his drawing a Petition for each of the said Warrants: Which Proceedings and Doings in the said Land-Office, your Committee are of Opinion, are in no wise warranted by Law, and are oppressive and grievous to the People of this Province, and humbly submit the same to the Consideration of the honourable House.

Signed per Order,

RALPH DOBINSON, Cl. Com.

WILLIAM HAMLIN and *Robert Buchanan*, both of *Kent* County, do oblige themselves or Heirs, to pay unto *Benedict Calvert* and *George Stuart*, Judges of the Land-Office, the sum of Two Pounds Five Shillings and Pence current Money, as it now passes; as witness our Hands this 24th Day of October 1770.

T. WILLIAM STEWART.

WILLIAM HAMLIN,  
R. BUCHANAN.

W. S.

N. B. The above Fee to be agreeable to Proclamation.

THOMAS ELLIOTT, of *Queen-Anne's* County, do oblige myself or my Heirs, to pay unto *Benedict Calvert* and *George Stuart*, Judges of the Land-Office, the Quantity of Three Hundred and Seventy five Pounds of good and lawful Tobacco; as witness our Hands, this 30th Day of October 1770. The above Fees to be agreeable to Proclamation, or Regulation of Fees which shall happen.

T. NICHOLAS HARWOOD.

THOMAS ELLIOTT.

JOHN BROOKER MEEKE, of *Charles* County, do oblige myself or my Heirs, to pay, or cause to be paid, unto *Benedict Calvert* and *George Stuart*, Judges of the Land-Office, the Quantity of Three Hundred and Seventy five Pounds of good and lawful Tobacco; as witness