

By the S E N A T E, February 22, 1777.

Gentlemen,

W E think it would be proper to direct the council of safety to issue immediately commissions, agreeable to the roster settled by both houses, to such officers as have not yet received them.

By order,

R. RIDGELY, cl. sen.

And Brice Thomas Beale Worthington, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the following message :

By the S E N A T E, February 22, 1777.

Gentlemen,

W E cannot concur in your message by Messieurs Bowie and Tillard, because we are of opinion, that, though many of the insurgents may only have been guilty of offences bailable by law, yet we are apprehensive danger might arise to the state from letting such offenders altogether at liberty to return to their habitations, whereby all opportunity would again be afforded them to disturb the peace of the community : and we conceive that the council of safety, under the recommendation proposed by you, would be bound to set at full liberty, by bail, all such offenders as by law, in times of settled tranquillity, would be entitled to bail : We therefore beg leave to propose, that the council of safety be requested to examine the cases of the several insurgents, and report to the assembly which of them are bailable : and that the general assembly then take such order therein, as the public safety may require.

By order,

R. RIDGELY, cl. sen.

Which was read.

ORDERED, That a message be prepared in answer thereto.

Adjourned till 3 o'clock.

P O S T M E R I D I E M.

The house met.

The following message being prepared, was sent to the senate by Mr. Sheredine and Mr. Henry.

By the H O U S E of D E L E G A T E S, February 22, 1777.

May it please your honours,

I N answer to your message by Mr. Worthington, we must observe, that the powers of the council of safety were, in the opinion of this house, competent to have prevented the danger that might have arisen to the state, from letting offenders altogether at liberty to return to their habitations ; and under the recommendation we proposed, although offenders might have been bailed, yet we do not think the council were under the necessity of setting them at full liberty, in the same manner as was customary heretofore in times of settled tranquillity ; nothing in our message was intended to prevent their exercising those full powers heretofore given by former conventions, of confining dangerous offenders to particular districts ; however, as your honours are of a different opinion, we agree to your proposition, that the council of safety be requested to examine the cases of the several insurgents, and report to the general assembly which of them are bailable, that such order may be taken therein as the public safety may require.

By order,

G. DUVALL, cl. ho. del.

Charles Carroll of Carrollton, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the following message :

By the S E N A T E, February 22, 1777.

Gentlemen,

S I N C E our message to you by Matthew Tilghman, Esq; suggesting the expediency of commissioning the officers appointed by the roster agreed to by both houses, we have received some information respecting the conduct of the gentleman intended for major of the first battalion, which in our opinion makes it necessary to suspend his commission until further enquiry can be made ; we therefore wish you would defer ordering any commission for that office, and refer you to captain Alexander Murray for the information which occasions this message.

By order,

R. RIDGELY, cl. sen.

Which was read and ordered to lie on the table.

The house adjourns till Monday morning 9 o'clock.

M O N D A Y, February 24, 1777.

TH E house met. Present the same members as on Saturday, except Mr. Harrison, Mr. Bordley, Mr. Tillard, Mr. Hammond, Mr. Hall, Mr. M'Pherson, Mr. Ridgely, Mr. Bowie, Mr. Craufurd, Mr. Magruder, Mr. Smith, Mr. Chase, and Mr. Burgess. Mr. Downes has leave of absence.

A sufficient number of members for the transacting of business not being present, Mr. Speaker adjourned the house till next day 9 o'clock.

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