

By the Lower House of Assembly, May 14, 1740.

May it Please your Honours

As we have read your Message to this House of the 8<sup>th</sup> Inst. and our  
 Ancestor thought very wisely we had granted leave it in to charge us with (without or  
 Indignity in what concerns our Duty to his Majesty, and the Honour and  
 Prosperity of our Mother Country; and that it was from your Report not to  
 pass any Bill whatever, unless that for Arms and Ammunition, was made  
 to be with a Session of Assembly, that we deferred proceeding any further on  
 the Bill for Encouragement of his Majesty's Locks, since for the reasons  
 mentioned in that Message of ours we could not agree to any money bill  
 having such a Duration; your Words are and therefore we rather choose to  
 return that Bill for Arms and Ammunition with a Negative, than by  
 passing it, or any other at this juncture, to forward the making a Session,  
 which must put an end to an Act of the like kind that otherwise will  
 continue till a Session happens.

We cannot find any part of our Message wherein it is said that  
 the Bill for Arms and Ammunition in no way relates to his Majesty's  
 Service or is defective to our Constitution; we had indeed in the making  
 the making that or any other Bill of the like kind to his Majesty's Service we  
 have found by Experience to be hurtful; and cannot have any relation to  
 his Majesty's Service, since the Alternatives we propose must much more  
 contribute to that Service than such a Determination can possibly do;  
 nor can we agree with your Honours that the same Reason holds with  
 regard to Laws of a different kind; It is well known our Mother Country grant  
 them Supplies Annually, and increase or diminish them as they see  
 Occasion; and the Reason why they grant them for so short a time and with  
 a fixed Duration, we presume cannot be unknown to your Honours.

It is also our duty to inform your Honours that we are only prompted by a Desire of your Offices should be  
 enjoyed by others than your selves; Altho' this be an Duty of refusing  
 sake, yet is not now; It is thus, that a Doct Equip of Religious Duties  
 has by some been termed Enthusiasm, a Rational Enquiry into the Grounds  
 and Principles of Religion branded with Atheism and free-thinking,  
 a People Complaining of real Aggravations have been called Male-contents,  
 and Persons enjoying the Oppressive Practices of your said to want the  
 Office for themselves; There is no way that we know of guarding against