

U. H. J. Bill for Arms and Ammunition or to deprive the Province of a necessary Fund for its support when We can with Truth assure you, that there is not a Member in this House against that Bill

Calvert  
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p. 106 It is very true that upon intimation given us that the Upper House intended to alter the usual Duration of several Bills sent to them We resolved to keep in Our Power that Bill for Arms, &c<sup>a</sup> in Order, as your Excellency is pleased to Express it, to make Sure of those Bills with their Accustomed Duration, wherein the Interest of the Country and the Administration of Justice are so nearly Concerned, and altho this may look like a Restraint on that House, which they say is inconsistent with their Priviledge as a Branch of Legislature, it is not more than what they have done to Our House in this and former Assemblies; For in the very First Message sent us this Session, they tell us they would not Pass any Bill whatsoever, until we should send them another in the manner they required If it be true (as we hope will never be denied) that the Priviledges of the Delegates of Maryland duly elected and Convened According to the express Terms of the Royal Charter and Laws of the Country, are at least as Sacred and as little to be violated, as those of the Upper House, who we doubt cannot shew the like Vouchers for their taking a Share in the Legislature; It is strange that that Conduct should be reckon'd Irregular, Unparliamentary or Unreasonable in Us, which even by your Excellency is said to be Reasonable in them

We are told this Intimation was not given us from their House, and therefore We are Irregular in taking such notice of it: but We submit it to your Excellency's Judgment, whichever way the Information came, whether the Event doth not fully shew Our Fears to have been well grounded by their refusing to give us any Satisfaction in the matter, and having resolved never to give Our Bills a second Reading until We should send up this other Bill; and We think therefore it would have been a Trespass upon Common Prudence in us to part with the only apparent Means left us of procuring those useful Laws when the Contrary Conduct in the Upper House is Justified by your Excellency

We could have very sincerely wisht this Practice had never been between the two Houses, but every one who reads Our Proceedings must Acknowledge it took its Rise in the Upper House, and it is to prevent any thing of the Kind for the future, to maintain and support the Priviledges of the Delegates, and to preserve to them a freedom of Action that we are Obliged now to submit to the Inconveniency of having Our Temporary Laws cease for a while, rather than come into such Measures as must in their Consequence render our having any Laws whatsoever precarious to depend solely on the Will of An Upper House, and to be purchased at any price it should be thought