

U. H. J. Day the Time they were first Prorogued to. I offered it to three of her Majesty's hon:^{ble} Council being all I could then get to advise with. Who gave me their best Advice and that upon the greatest Reason that since it was doubted whether they should meet sooner than the Time they were once Prorogued to It was far safer they should be Convened at the certain Time they were first Prorogued to rather than run any Hazard of the Legality of the Session

p. 347 After which his Excell ordered the Clerk of the Council to read what he intended to say to the Assembly. Which being read all the Gent. of her Majesty's Council being now present do very well approve thereof as Sufficient & proper on this occasion

Came M^r Henry Coursey M^r Robert Gooldsborough Col Smallwood M^r Elias King and M^r James Philips to acquaint his Excell the Governour that there is an appearance of the majority of the House of Delegates and that they were Come from them to inform his Excell of the death of Col W^m Dent their Speaker and desired his Commands to make Choice of another

To which his Excellency was pleased to answer they might do so

Came M^r Gooldsborough and M^r Coursey to acquaint his Excellency that the House had made choice of a Speaker and waited his Leave to present him

To which his Excell made answer that he was ready to receive them

Then came the house of Delegates and presented Col Tho^s Smith for their Speaker who formerly acknowledged that besides his present Inability of Body he well knew himself unfit for that Service and prayed his Excellency would Command the House to make choice of a better

But his Excell was pleased to say he doubted not the wisdom of the House of Delegates in their Choice of him who had so fair a Character and would not admitt his Excuse to restore him to a good Health of body the better to Enable him to Discharge his office

Original Journal. Then the Speaker prayed his Ex^{ncy} to Grant them the free Exercise of their Rights and Priviledges that they might not be infringed but suffered freedom of Debate and Access to his Ex^{ncys} person & if any mistake should arise it might be Candidly Interpreted

Which his Ex^{ncy} was pleased to Assure him of and then bespake them as followeth.

M^r Speaker and you Gentⁿ Delegates.

Your now meeting at this late & unseasonable time of the year presses your utmost Sedulity in the Dispatch of the