

taken upon itself to determine Both, without allowing the House of Delegates any Share in the Consideration of either.

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Calvert
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2^{dly} That as the Upper House has frequently inculcated the necessity of extraordinary Armaments at this Juncture, from our Being in a War with Spain, from the Probability of one with France, the Danger of being Attacked by some French Colonies said to be within a few Days March of our Frontiers, the Insurrection of Negroes, and the evil Disposition of Papists, our house have thought the increasing the Sum and by Consequence the Quantity of Arms and Ammunition at such a particular time of Danger, will more Conduce to our Safety, than giving the Three Pence for nine or any other number of years, for if the Danger is at Hand the Money raised after the Third year can be of no use to defend us against such Danger

3^{dly} That altho the Lower House in May 1739, when no War was proclaimed, but only a general Rumour of it, when there was a large Quantity of Arms in the Province, and above the Proceeds of Seven Years Duty in Bank in England, did not think it necessary to renew the Bill yet as they offer it when War is Proclaimed and Danger is at Hand, it is not even to be presumed but that every House of Delegates will continue from time to time so to do, when they shall be in the like or worse Circumstances, or their own Preservation require it

We are further Ordered again to renew to you the Offer made in Our Message of the 17th Instant, which if you refuse, we are required to desist from any further Conference on the Bill for Arms and Ammunition

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The Conferees of the Upper House desire to withdraw to take the Advice of their House thereon

And the Conferees Adjourn until to Morrow Morning

Thursday Morning May 22^d The Conferees met according to adjournment

The Conferees of the Upper House deliver themselves in the following manner

Gentlemen We have it in Charge from Our House to say in Answer to what you communicated to us yesterday on the Subject of the Act for Arms &c^a and your Reasons for not agreeing to Our Choice of your Alternative for nine years, That the Right you Claim of not being Obligated to give particular Reasons for your Resolutions on money Bills, is not a less Priviledge of Our House on any Bill whatever, and therefore they hope you will not think it strange, whenever they should think fit to assert or insist upon it