

U. H. J. The following Message is sent to the Lower House by Edmund  
 No. 734 Jenings Esq<sup>r</sup>

By the Upper House of Assembly 11 June 1739

Gentlemen

The first Reason you are pleased to give in Your Message of the 9<sup>th</sup> Instant for not reviving the Act for Arms and Ammunition, is, that the Money now in Bank amounting to £ 2250..11..2 Sterling and £34: 13: 7<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> Current Gold has not been applied to the Purposes for which it was raised; But when you consider that at this Juncture a  
 p. 66 considerable additional Supply of Arms and Ammunition is necessary that that Sum in Bank cannot be supposed sufficient upon any sudden necessity, and that it is not so easy and practicable to raise Money upon an Emergency, as to apply and dispose of Money for the proper Purposes on such Emergency, that Reason can be of little Weight; And it would be much more reasonable to object to Persons intrusted with the Management and Disposal of Money for Arms and Ammunition, that they purchased such Arms & Ammunition so long before immediate Emergency required, that such Arms & Ammunition were spoiled, than that they faithfully kept that money in Bank in order to lay it out, when the sudden Circumstances of the Province absolutely required it, and a Greater Use and Benefit might arise therefrom to the Province.

The next thing You mention is a Sum of £2500 Sterling unaccounted for in any Manner; this carries the Appearance of so heinous a Charge not only against the Governor but Our selves, that We are obliged to call upon you in the most publick Manner to particularize the Treasurers Account upon which such a Deficiency arises, and when it happened; As for Our Parts We are so far from being conscious of any such Misapplication or Fraud in the Disposal of the Publick Money committed to Our Trust, that We are not unwilling or afraid to have Our Conduct examined in the strictest Manner, and therefore with Justice we expect you will set this Matter in a proper Light: It is very true, there were formerly Insinuations of some Misapplications to have been made of the money on this Fund above Eighteen Years ago; but it is equally true that former Assemblies were upon Enquiry very well satisfied in their Doubts on this Head, and of this Truth some of the Members now in Your House (if We are not very much misinform'd) can give undoubted Testimony: And further the Accounts relating to this Fund were always from time to time laid before and past the Examination and Approbation of Both Houses

As to the £2200 Suggested by you to be possessed by His Lordship without any Law to levy the same, We can with the greatest Truth assure You, We neither know or believe any such thing, or that any Money intended to supply the Magazine with Arms and