

The answer for answering the delegates was again produced pursuant whereunto the forenamed  
members have submitted unto them by his Majesty's honourable Council present the  
Oaths appointed by Act of Parliament to be taken instead of the Oaths of Allegiance and Syme-  
nory who actually have subscribed the said

The several members were on this day and before took leave and repaired to the State  
House

His Excellency Francis Nicholson Esq<sup>r</sup> his Majesty's Captain General and Governor in  
chief in and over the Province of arms and sent to the House that they should immediately  
attend him in Council accordingly the several members of the House came and appeared  
his Excellency that they were not according to his Majesty's writ of Election and Prorogation  
I thereupon his Excellency gave command that they should go and choose a speaker who  
Accordingly repaired to the House and after some short time return again and acquaint his  
Excellency that they found the number not sufficient in number to proceed to the choice of  
a speaker for that according to the Constitution of this Province they should be the Major Part  
of the House to wit four and twenty in number present to make such choice which they then  
not being convened they could not pursue his Excellency's direction to choose a speaker

They considered which way they think most proper and authentic for the deferring the  
Assembly till another day who are all of opinion that the proper way will be by Writ  
of Prorogation which is ordered accordingly to issue and was prepared read and approved  
of in Council and afterwards signed by his Excellency and passed the Broad Seal of the Province

His being pleased to absent himself and several members of the House appearing in  
Council the said Writ of Prorogation was openly and distinctly read unto them as follows

William the third by the Grace of God of England Scotland France  
and Ireland King Defender of the Faith &c To the members of our Privy Council and House  
of Delegates for this our Province of Maryland Greeting Whereas the meeting of the General  
Assembly of this Province by our certain writ of Prorogation issued the twenty first day  
of February last past deferred and put off until the eighth day of March instant but  
for certain urgent cause and considerations us more especially moving we do think fit to  
further defer put off and prorogue the sitting of the said Assembly until the tenth day of  
the Instant March and the same hereby prorogued accordingly whereof you and every  
of you are to take due notice and in no wise to fail meeting at this place the said tenth day of  
March appointed herein at the Town and Port of Annapolis under the Broad Seal of our  
said Province this said Eighth day of March 1697 and in the tenth Year of our reign We  
do hereby and with Council Francis Nicholson Esq<sup>r</sup> Captain General and Governor in  
chief in and over our said Province and Territory of Maryland

Fr Nicholson

✓ A Council held at the Port of Annapolis the 10<sup>th</sup> day of March 1697 ✓  
Present

Colonel Henry Foster Colonel George Nickerson and Thomas Trench Esq<sup>r</sup>

This being the day to which the Assembly was further prorogued the several members  
came to Town and not yet met came viz Major Thomas Smithson M<sup>r</sup> Edward Lloyd M<sup>r</sup>  
William Kennedy and M<sup>r</sup> Richard Talphman Delegates by Indenture returned for Talbot  
County Major Thomas Smithson M<sup>r</sup> Simon Wilson and M<sup>r</sup> Michael Miller for Kent County  
Lieutenant Col<sup>l</sup> John Thompson M<sup>r</sup> William Harris M<sup>r</sup> Hans Hanson and M<sup>r</sup> John  
Carroll for East County and also M<sup>r</sup> John Ferry for Baltimore County to whom the Commission  
was sent for summoning them and they had actually administered unto them by the Gentlemen  
of the Council present the Oaths appointed by Act of Parliament to be taken instead of the  
Oaths of Allegiance and subscribed the said

His Excellency Francis Nicholson Esq<sup>r</sup> his Majesty's Captain General and chief Go-  
vernor of this Province being at hand attended with the honourable Col<sup>l</sup> John Addison &  
Thomas Black Esq<sup>r</sup> came into Council and the members being all repaired to the House held  
leave given them to choose a speaker who after some short time came and Presented Mayor