

# The Governours Speech to y<sup>e</sup> Assembly

27<sup>th</sup> Day of March 1716

New Castle

Gent

I should not have called you together at this time of y<sup>e</sup> Year but to be ready to make use of y<sup>e</sup> opportunities that may offer to send home such of our Laws as have not had the Royal approbation if this be thought necessary 'Twill be proper to consider what will be y<sup>e</sup> Charge of Transcribing them & necessary Solicitation at home. The late act for the better securing of this Govt. in Case of the Death or Absence of y<sup>e</sup> Govern<sup>r</sup>. being for severall reasons repeated; If you draw up another according to one of the Province for that End (which has had the Royal sanction) I shall very readily pass it. If you want any other Laws you think necessary for the Interest & happiness of the people I shall be ready to agree with you as far as is consistent with my duty & y<sup>e</sup> Trust reposed in me by the Proprietary & the Crown. 'Twill not be improper in my opinion that the Militia act be revived for y<sup>e</sup> better security of the peace & <sup>defence</sup> of the Country since 'tis beyond doubt that there is a Rebellion in North Brittain <sup>drawn</sup> against our Lawful & Rightful Sovereign King George. besides 'tis not improbable we may be alarmed near home since some Numbers of y<sup>e</sup> Indians who were at War against Carolina are about to settle in our Neighbourhood.

Gent. I must recommend to your Consideration how long I have been with you and how little I have received from the publick for my support in the administration, but if this has no weight with you I hope at least you will so strengthen the Law made by a late Assembly for Raising a penny p. pound that the peoples End that gave it may be answered & y<sup>e</sup> persons concerned to receive it may be no longer disappointed.

Now Gent. as the Charter of Privileges granted by the Proprietor to this Country in the foundation you are to go upon & I am to govern my self by I conceive 'Twill be your business as well as mine to Enquire whether it has in any manner been broke in upon or Whether any article of it can be dispenced with by any person whatsoever.

## The assembly's Answer to the Gov<sup>r</sup>. Speech

May it please your Honour # #

The Assembly has received your Hon<sup>r</sup>. Speech with humble & hearty Thanks and are very much Encouraged by some parts of it that shows your Honours Inclination and good disposition to join with us in the enacting such Wholesome Laws as shall be for the wellbeing & Safety of these Three Counties what union can be more comfortable & happy as between y<sup>e</sup> Gov<sup>r</sup>. & people, & what Misfortune so great when by Evil Council and advice they are kept at a distance and Misunderstanding on of another



We assure you Sir nothing shall be wanting on the assemblys part to joyn with your Honour to make a compleat union betwixt your hon<sup>d</sup>. and the people we represent and Every part of your hon<sup>d</sup>. Speech shall have its due weight & Consideration as it falls in Course with the buisness of this Assembly, allowing for the untimely & Season of the year & our present Circumstances. ¶

But we cannot but lament & bemoan the unhappy Burthen & Grievances <sup>these</sup> three Counties Labour under. it has been debated in this house the Support of Gov<sup>t</sup>. but till our Grievances are removed we know not what we have to give nor

can we give any thing Chearfully. ¶

*This part of the speech is in order & will make a good C. G.*  
We are <sup>very</sup> much Concerned to see your hon<sup>d</sup>. Encircled with Gentlemen that call themselves the Councils, Some of which are Enslaved by the resolves of the last Sessions and have been so farre from giving Satisfaction or repenting of their audacious attempt to undermine our Constitution and scorn to the power & Right of assemblies, that they have proceeded to agravate their Crimes by repeated Threats and affronts to this house. Malitiously intending to Subvert the priviledges of the assembly and introduce arbitrary power & Enslave us & the people we represent. ¶

We doubt not but y<sup>e</sup>. Hon<sup>d</sup>. Separated from those Evil Counsellors, will according to your naturall good Disposition and Inclination joyn with this present assembly to punish the authors of our Miseries and violaters of our priviledges and secure us from the apprehensions of the like for the future, which when your honour pleases to doo, we shall proceed to a methodicall Charge against them and then Chearfully (as the time will allow) Endeavour to dispatch those severall articles as y<sup>e</sup>. hon<sup>d</sup>. has been pleased to lay before us. ¶

Signed by order of  
the house Jasper Yeates  
Speaker



The Gov<sup>r</sup>s Speech to the Assembly of the  
Province the 2<sup>d</sup> day of May 1716

sent

By what mistake or misfortune you mist your adjournment. I shall  
not Enquire you are now restored to your Priviledges as at first and I am ready  
to joyn with you to Enact Such Laws as may be for the Interest & Tranquility  
of the province. To what I have said before you at your first Sitting I must  
recommend to your Consideration that a Law may be made for Encabling Aliens  
to hold Lands that a Duty be Laid on Goods imported from the Neighbouring  
Provinces Equivalent to what they have laid on ours

I must further recommend to y<sup>e</sup> Consideration that I have been  
almost Eight years in the Prop<sup>r</sup>s Service & above Seven in this Gov<sup>t</sup>. yet have  
not received from the publick an Equivalent to what I have left to serve them  
= If I am disregarded in this point I hope the people cannot Justly blame me  
If I am to be recalled, I hope such a person will be sent to redress you who  
will bring with him stronger Inclinations if it be possible to exert himself for y<sup>e</sup>  
Honour & Interest of the Proprietor & the Interest & Happiness of y<sup>e</sup> people

==  
I shall make no more but leave this matter entirely to you

The assembly refused to give y<sup>e</sup> Gov<sup>r</sup> an answer in writing  
but by the page told him they had ordered y<sup>e</sup> Bills presented  
to be drawn up & adjourned to y<sup>e</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> of June they then met  
and after by a the page <sup>said</sup> that they could not answer y<sup>e</sup> Gov<sup>r</sup>  
Expectations they adjourned to y<sup>e</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> of August



Governor Gookins, Speech to  
the Assembly March 1768