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done; and you, in all your's, have done what you ought not to have done; let me
intreat you, as a friend, and as you regard your reputation and the approbation of
your American brethren, to reform and turn from your evil ways; for, believe me,
you will not, for your doughty performances, be closeted by your sovereign, nor be
made a Privy Counsellor; you will neither be made a Knight of the Garter, a Knight
Banneret, nor a Knight of the Bath; neither will you be made even one of the poor
Knights of Windsor. You will not receive the thanks of the House of Lords or Com-
mons; nor if I had my will, should you get (what you are seeking after and expect)
either place or pension.

Y.

1. The meeting of lawyers in Perth Amboy on September 19, 1765 which
resulted in an agreement by the attorneys not to use stamps or stamped paper
in their legal transactions.

2. John Lawrence (1726-1796), assemblyman from Burlington City from
1761 to 1768, served as clerk of the meeting. Is Lawrence ‘Z’? A wealthy
lawyer, devout Anglican, and former mayor of Burlington, Lawrence became a
Loyalist exile in December 1776.

3. Alcoran: The Koran.

4. See Sec. III, Doc. 10.

2 Governor William Franklin to the General Assembly

[Votes and Proceedings, January 11-February 13, 1775 (Burlington, 1775),
pp. 5-7.]

The current imperial crisis weighed especially heavily upon the shoulders
of Governor William Franklin. Cognizant that he lacked the authority and ability
to stem the tide of resistance, he looked for a way to counter the popular front.
Extralegal organizations and activities had proliferated in part because the
legislature, which had largely directed the protest movement in the past, had not
sat since March 1774; yet to call the assembly was to risk escalating the prob-
lem by means of legislative endorsement of the congressional program.
Deciding to gamble, Franklin summoned the General Assembly in January 1775.
His opening message to the solons reveals his strategy: by stressing the
responsibilities of the representatives and the stakes at hand, he hoped to dis-
suade the assembly from sanctioning the action of the Continental Congress. In
particular, he endeavored to break the united front of opposition by inducing the
lower house to send a separate remonstrance to the king instead of acquiescing
in the congressional petition. He realized neither objective (see Docs. 4 and 7).
Gentlemen of the Council, and Gentlemen of the Assembly,
It would argue not only a great Want of Duty to His Majesty, but of Regard to
the good People of this Province, were I, on this Occasion, to pass over in Silence the
late alarming Transactions in this and the neighbouring Colonies, or not endeavour
to prevail on you to exert yourselves in preventing those Mischiefs to this Country,
which, without your timely Interposition, will, in all Probability, be the
Consequence.

It is not for me to decide on the particular Merits of the Dispute between Great-
Britain and her Colonies, nor do I mean to censure those who conceive themselves
aggrieved for aiming at a Redress of their Grievances. It is a Duty they owe
themselves, their Country, and their Posterity. All that I would wish to guard you
against, is the giving any Countenance or Encouragement to that destructive Mode
of Proceeding which has been unhappily adopted in Part by some of the Inhabitants
in this Colony, and has been carried so far in others as totally to subvert their former
Constitution. It has already struck at the Authority of one of the Branches of the
Legislature in a particular Manner. And, if you, Gentlemen of the Assembly, should
give your Approbation to Transactions of this Nature, you will do as much as lies in
your Power to destroy that Form of Government of which you are an important Part,
and which it is your Duty by all lawful Means to preserve. To you your Constituents
have intrusted a peculiar Guardianship of their Rights and Privileges. You are their
legal Representatives, and you cannot, without a manifest Breach of your Trust,
suffer any Body of Men, in this or any of the other Provinces, to usurp and exercise
any of the Powers vested in you by the Constitution. It behooves you particularly,
who must be constitutionally supposed to speak the Sense of the People at large, to be
extremely cautious in consenting to any Act whereby you may engage them as
Parties in, and make them answerable for Measures which may have a Tendency to
involve them in Difficulties far greater than those they aim to avoid.

Besides, there is not, Gentlemen, the least Necessity, consequently there will not
be the least Excuse for your running any such Risks on the present Occasion. If you
are really disposed to represent to the King any Inconveniences you conceive
yourselves to lie under, or to make any Propositions on the present State of America,
I can assure you, from the best Authority, that such Representations or Propositions
will be properly attended to, and certainly have a greater Weight coming from each
Colony in it’s separate Capacity, than in a Channel, of the Propriety and Legality of
which there may be much Doubt.

You have now pointed out to you, Gentlemen, two Roads—one evidently
leading to Peace, Happiness, and Restoration of the publick Tranquility—the other
inevitably conducting you to Anarchy, Misery, and all the Horrors of a Civil War.
Your Wisdom, your Prudence, and your Regard for the true Interests of the People,
will be best known when you have shewn to which Road you give the Preference. If
to the former, you will probably afford Satisfaction to the moderate, the sober, and
the discreet Part of your Constituents. If to the latter, you will, perhaps for a Time,
give Pleasure to the warm, the rash, and the inconsiderate among them, who, I would
willingly hope, violent as is the Temper of the present Times, are not even now the
Majority. But it may be well for you to remember, should any Calamity hereafter
befall[1] them, from your Compliance with their Inclinations, instead of pursuing,
as you ought, the Dictates of your own Judgment, that the Consequences of their
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[not] returning to a proper Sense of their Conduct, may prove deservedly fatal to yourselves.

I shall say no more at present on this disagreeable Subject, but only to repeat an Observation I made to a former Assembly on a similar Occasion. “Every Breach of the Constitution, whether it proceeds from the Crown or the People, is, in its Effects, equally destructive to the Rights of both. It is the Duty, therefore, of those who are intrusted with Government, to be equally careful in guarding against Encroachments from the one as the other. But It is (says one of the wisest of Men) a most infallible Symptom of the dangerous State of Liberty, when the chief Men of a free Country shew a greater Regard to Popularity than to their own Judgment.”

WM. FRANKLIN

1. The implementation of the Continental Association.
2. Franklin is quoting from his November 30, 1765, address to the assembly in which he criticized the legislators for their conduct during the Stamp Act crisis.

3 The Testimony of the People Called Quakers

[Pennsylvania Gazette, February 22, 1775.]

The burgeoning protest movement and the action of the Continental Congress placed New Jersey Quakers, especially numerous in the western and southern portions of the province, in a delicate situation. Religious scruples forbade participation by members of the Society of Friends in the extralegal activities of the popular front, but community pressures (social ostracism and threats of violence) induced an increasing number of Quakers to give at least tacit—and sometimes overt—support to the common cause. To alleviate the tensions between Friends and radicals, the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, comprised of Quaker leaders from Pennsylvania and New Jersey, issued The Testimony of the People Called Quakers outlining the neutrality-based-on-conscience position of Friends. Willing to render unto Caesar, they would fight neither for nor against the state.

The Testimony of the People called Quakers

Given forth by a Meeting of the Representatives of said People, in Pennsylvania