

Walter Ellis

154

July 9 1765

Sir

I must trust in Your Majesty's experienced  
goodness and condescension to pardon the pre-  
sumption of my using this method of humbly  
laying myself at Your Majesty's feet and  
beseeching your patience to peruse this letter.  
I have with great concern thought that I  
perceiv'd for near three weeks past an altera-  
tion in Your Majesty towards me, & I do most  
seriously protest upon the most care full  
recollection of every word and action that I am  
not conscious of having said or done any  
thing to offend or distaste Your Majesty or  
any person for whom you are pleas'd to have a

regard. I have neither indigned or caballed,  
I have in a great degree secluded myself from  
company to avoid all suspicion & misrepresenta-  
tion; & have rested with a most resigned confidence  
in your Majesty's goodness to me; & having  
assured your Majesty that I was only yours,  
I have carefully avoided every other connexion  
and support. To whom therefore ought I, to  
whom can I have recourse but to your Majesty  
on this occasion? I have been informed by report,  
but by very circumstantial report, that I am to  
be displaced, & that I am to be offered to be made  
a Joint Paymaster. If that be the intention,  
I most humbly beseech your Majesty  
to protect me from that which must be the  
ruin of my credit & estimation in the World and

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greatly detrimental to my private fortune. My  
 wish is certainly to continue to serve your  
 Majesty in my present station, but if it be ne-  
 cessary to your affairs to remove me, it is your  
 own Sir, I have neither right or inclination  
 to murmur or complain. My present station  
 would give me claim in the expectation of the  
 sword to the succession to the Pay Office entire  
 if it were to become vacant. I humbly beg  
 leave to recall to your Majesty's remembrance what  
 I quitted to come into my present Office & stood an  
 Election which without opposition cost me twelve  
 hundred pounds & might have cost me much  
 more. If I should become Joint paymaster I should  
 receive eighteen hundred pounds a year & I must  
 stand an Election at such a distance of time as  
 must carry me to an expence which I cannot in  
 common prudence stand. I have good foundation

for what I say of the income of the Joint Paymaster  
for the late W. Potter, who held it, assured me upon  
his Honour that it was no more; & Your Majesty  
must know that I have certain means to know  
what the revenue of that Office is in times of  
Peace. But, Sir, what affects me most nearly is  
the lowering me in the opinion of all mankind  
if, after having served, where I yet do, I should  
go in to this divided Office. If therefore Your  
Majesty wishes me out of my employment, I  
retire with resignation and submission; but  
if ever I found favour before you I beseech you,  
Sir, not to be offended if I prefer the retiring  
upon my private fortune to the becoming Joint  
Paymaster.

I beg leave to assure Your Majesty that I am  
with the utmost gratitude and most profound Respect

July 9<sup>th</sup> 1765

Sir  
Your Majesty's  
Most Faithfull & most devoted Servant and  
Subject  
W. Ellis