

No. 41 was followed No. 68
This should follow No. 45

George Curzon

Nov. 23 1763

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23 Nov 1763

I beg leave to inform your Majesty, that
the Debate continued to day in the House of
Commons till half an hour after eight upon
the Question that the Adjournment of
Consideration of your Majesty's Message be now
resum'd. The Objection made was that Mr
Wilkes was concern'd in the Question about
Privileges which it was propos'd to consider
& therefore that it ought not to be enter'd into
in his Absence, but that he being a Party
ought to be heard in his Own Defence. To
this it was answer'd, that the Resolution about
Privilege was a general Resolution not relating
to Mr Wilkes alone, but to the Whole House. That
Mr Wilkes had waiv'd his Privilege, if he had any
& therefore was not concern'd, That he could not be

considered as a Party because he had actually
voted as a Judge which if it had been considered
by the House as his own Cause he could not have
done. That when he came to be personally
charged he would certainly be heard before any
censure passed; That if this Question was deferred till
he came to the House He would proceed upon the
Action he had brought & a determination would
be given by an Inferior Court concerning the
Privileges of the House of Commons whilst they
were actually sitting. Notwithstanding these
Arguments the Authority of Mr Wilbraham who
earnestly proposed the putting off the Question
weighed so much with several Gentlemen of
the Law that Mr Forrester, Mr Elisha Harvey,
& Mr Yorke supported the proposition for
putting off the Consideration & as there was reason
to apprehend a more dangerous defection from
the Turn of the Debate, it was judged advisable

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to offer to put it off till Monday next upon
Condition that whether Mr Wilkes would attend
that day or not, the Question should come on
& the Privilege be determin'd before the Action
in the Common Pleas could be decid'd. This
was refus'd, & upon this refusal the Division
was made, which your Majesty will see
by the inclos'd Minutes was 213 to 166.
many of the Tory Gentlemen having left us
upon the Opinions of the Gentlemen of the Law.
Mr C. Yorke sent me word after the Division
was over that the Ser & he took was out
of Regard to Mr Wilbraham, whom he had
persuaded to be with us upon the Main Question
of Privilege. The Debate continuing so long, &
the speaker appearing to be very much exhausted
it was impossible to go any farther to night,
& therefore after proposing the Question of

Privilege which was done as soon as the
Division was over, the House being in the
Possession of the Question the Debate upon it
was adjourned till to morrow, & the Speaker
humbly requests your Majestys Indulgence &
Pardon if it is not improper that you will be
pleas'd to defer the Attendance of the House
upon your Majesty till Fryday Morning
instead of to morrow. I have sent the List of
those that spoke inclos'd together with the
Minutes of the Proceedings. General Conway &
S^r John Gryffin voted in the Minority as did Sir
John Philips & some other of the Country Gentlemen
altho' the greater Part of them voted with us.

Wednesday Night 11: o'clock
Nov^r 23: 1763

M^r Grenville Nov 23
1763