

Ld. Halifax

43

Decr 1763

[16 Nov 1763]

Lord Sandwich  
7 oth Clock

Lord Halifax, in obedience to his Majesty's Commands, has the Honor most dutifully to acquaint his Majesty, that the account he had from several Members of the House of Commons was, that Mr Wilkes, instead of having received Wounds by two Bullets, had been hurt with one only, which had enter'd the Skin of the Middle of the Body, and without going deep into the Body had been lodg'd in the Side. That the Ball had been extracted, and that Mr Wilkes was not thought to be in any Danger. This Report Lord Halifax has the stronger Reason to believe true, as he has been informed Mr Wilkes was seen walking from the Field of Battle with his Hand on his side.

When Lord Halifax arrived at the House of Commons, the Address to his Majesty had been moved & seconded. he had the same misfortune

he has often had, of hearing Alderman Beckford talk a great deal of unjustifiable nonsense. Mr Stanley was answering him, when Lord Habfas left the House.

Since he wrote the above, <sup>Lord Habfas has</sup>, ~~it now just~~ heard that Mr Pitt has made a long and unprinted speech, complimentary, in part, of the administration and endeavouuring to pacify the asperity of yesterday's speakers. The information from the House of Commons farther says, that the House is to proceed on the Point of Privilege on Friday next.

It is Lord Habfas's Duty further to acquaint his Majesty, that Lord Sandwich, <sup>the Marchioness of</sup> Lord Holland, and Lord Habfas have had some conversation since dinner on the Propriety of preventing Mr Wilkes's escape, to the Innovation of his Trial <sup>or</sup> his non-  
instant Performance; and that it is hoped an  
effected Method may be found to prevent the  
Criminal's Escape from Justice —