

Hertfordshire Ellis

May 17 1765

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Sir

I most humbly ask your Majesty's pardon for this presumption but having been obliged to issue so many orders in your Majesty's name yesterday and this day to your guards & to Ancremy Horse, & being called upon for more I find myself under the necessity to report to your Majesty what I have done & to know for my own justification whether I have your Majesty's approbation. Last night upon a representation from some Master Weavers that their

Houses had been attacked by a mob the
preceding evening & that intimation was
given them that their Houses should be
pulled down as last night. I thereupon gave
orders in your Majesty's name for a detach-
ment of one hundred men from the Tower
to be quartered in and about Spital fields
untill further orders; by which means no
mischief hath happen'd that I have heard
of. This day about eight thousand men
came down to Westminster and took possession
of the two Palace yards, so that the Lords
could scarce approach the House, but the
Mob insulted no one. The Magistrates
assembled & in consequence of the orders
given by the Secretaries of State yesterday

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& today a party of your Majesty's Horse
guards & several detachments of the Foot
guards from the Tilt yard & Savoy marched
to secure the passages to the House of
Lords & as the Mob increased so much that
the Secretaries of State gave me verbal orders
to hold more troops ready to support the
Magistrates if they should think it necessary
to send the Riot Act. I accordingly sent
your Majesty's orders to the commanding
officer of the 7th Dragoons at Lambeth
to hold a Squadron ready to march, who
immediately drew it to the foot of Westminster
Bridge. While I am now writing two
messengers are arrived to inform me that
Bedford House is actually attacked by many

thousands. I have given orders to Lt. W. Warren
to march with his Squadron immediately
with a troop of Grenadier Guards & some of Horse
Guards to proceed as speedily thither as is
possible. Two Officers and fifty men of the
Foot guards have orders to take Post at
Bedford House and to continue there all
night, & a Patrol of Horse to be maintained
all night in the fields at the back of
Bedford House. A large Pickett is ordered
to be had ready at the Lawry to repair where
the civil Magistrates shall require assistance.
The remainder of the Horse guards are held
in readiness. All which is humbly submitted.
I am with the utmost Duty Sir

May 17th 1765

Your Majesty's
Most humble and most devoted Servant
W. Elliot