

John Hatsell

Sir,

Cotton Garden
July 3rd 1789

I have look'd into both the Instances of 1660, & 1688, & it is very true, that in neither was there any previous direction, or subsequent approbation, of The Crown, respecting the choice of a Speaker. But it may be material to observe, That neither of those Parl^{ts} (as they were afterwards made by Law) were call'd by The King's writ - issued by his direction. The first were by virtue of an Ordinance issued by the Rump-Parl^l. - The latter, by the Or. of Orange & St. Lewis & therefore the formal proceedings of those Assemblies might not be liable to the same rules, as those are of a Parl^l legally summon'd by writs from The Crown. Add to this, That in the first instances, the personal absence of The King,

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& not at that moment acknowledg'd to be King by Law - & in the second the Vacancy of the Throne, render'd these formalities in the choice of a Speaker absolutely impossible. Whence, in the present case, the political Character of the King remaining, & his Will being, in some instances & to some purposes, to be signified under his Great-Seal, that presents the Great Seal being in this instance applied, as in former instances, to a Commission for holding & opening the Parlt. which would include the Royal Permission or Direction to elect a Speaker, & would authorize a subsequent Royal Approbation? /

Whether these Ideas have occur'd to any other Person, or if they have, whether they deserve any weight, You, Sir, must determine. They appear to me to contribute an essential distinction between the present instance, & the two Precedents - as much, as between a Parliament legally summon'd, & where the Will of the Crown, to these purposes, can be legally express'd, & an Assembly call'd from necessity, &

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not legally, but their Acts & Forms afterwards
legaliz'd by Act of Parl^t

I shall however keep my opinion to my-
self, especially as, from those Members he met
Yesterday at the House, it did not appear, that
any opposition would be made to the choice of
a Speaker. You desir'd me to send to you

what occurred to me upon this subject - &
therefore I hope I need make no excuse for
giving you this trouble

Yours most obed^t & affec^t serv^t
John Hatsell

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