Should follow 1520

Ld. North

GEO (MAIN)

Mar. 16 1773

1519

Lord North has frequently since he had the honour of his Majesty's commands on Sunday last thought over the proper method of receiving & answering the City petition, & has talked with several persons upon the subject. The more general opinion of those whom he has consulted is that it is impracticable for his Majesty to signify his intention either of giving or of refusing his assent in answer to the petition, & that the most eligible thing would be neither that no answer should be given, or that the answer should consist in declaring that no answer can properly be given. Upon the whole, Lord North

thinks the best course of proceeding would be for the L.d Chamberlain to be sent to the Lord Mayor & his attendants with this message.

"As your petition relates to a Bill "agreed on by the two Houses of Parliament "of which his Majesty can not take public "notice except in Parliament, I am commanded "by his Majesty to inform you, that you "are not to expect an answer.

After this declaration, if the City choose to present their petition, it will be read but not answered. This Method is less harsh than declining to give an answer.

Should follow 1520

Ld. North

GEO/MAIN/1519(2)

Mar. 16 1773

without apprizing them of it, & at the same time it may prevent their attempting to draw from the Crown any other answer so improperly on a future occasion. Lord North has mentioned this to Lord Hertford, but has not been able to speak to any of the Cabinet, who are lie out of Town tonight.

Tuesday Evening 11 o'clock.

No Date

[March 1773]

about the method of
answering the City petition