

At the Council Chamber Whitehall
the 15th of June 1780

By a Committee of the Lords of His
Majesty's most Honourable Privy
Council.

Your Majesty having been pleased, by Your
Order in Council of the 9th of this Instant June,
to refer to a Committee of the whole Council, to
Enquire who have been the Authors and Abettors
of the late Rebellious Tumults in the Cities of London
and Westminster, and the Borough of Southwark;
and what will be the most proper Method of
bringing speedily to Justice all those who
have been concerned therein, as Actors or
otherwise; and also to Enquire into the
Conduct of the Magistrates upon the Commencement,
and during the continuance of the said Tumults;
and, to Examine into the Destruction and
Damage of the Goals and publick Buildings;
and to consider by what means the
immediate Inconvenience to the public
by the want of proper Places of
Confinement may be remedied, till the
Buildings can be put into a Condition
to receive prisoners.

The Lords of the Committee, in
Obedience to Your Majesty's said
Order

Order, did immediately meet, and proceeded to issue such Orders as to them seemed most proper, to procure the Information necessary to enable them to comply with each particular of Your Majesty's said Order: And their Lordships having at several subsequent meetings, been attended by, and examined several of Your Majesty's Justices of the Peace, respecting the late Tumults, and having also called upon the Keepers of the several Goals, where any Acts of Violence have been committed, for a return of the Damage sustained at the said Goals, and examined them as to several particulars - Their Lordships do agree humbly to lay before Your Majesty, the following State of Facts, resulting or proceeding from the several Informations received and Examinations taken.

As to the first point, which Your Majesty has been pleased to direct this Committee to Enquire into, their Lordships do not find
any

any Evidence adduced in the course of the Proceedings, which will authorize them to say, who have been the Authors and Abettors of the late Tumults;

(But a considerable Number of Persons being in Custody, upon a Charge of Treason or Felony Committed during the said Tumults, and the Matter being still in a course of Examination, from whence discoveries may daily arise, it seems more conducive to the great purposes of this Enquiry, to wait the result of the Trials which it was expedient should proceed as quickly as the course of Law would allow, and for which purpose, Your Majesty by the Advice of this Committee, founded upon the Opinion of Your Majesty's Judges, has given the necessary Directions

With respect to the Second Point of Enquiry, Namely, the Conduct of the Magistrates upon the Commencement & during the continuance of the said Tumults.

It does appear to this Committee that several of the Magistrates for the County of Middlesex and City and Liberty of Westminster have been active, and that

38
that some have suffered in their property
by a zealous discharge of their Duty:
But notwithstanding the Spirit and Zeal
with which the Lord Lieutenant of the
County of Middlesex, and City and Liberty
of Westminster has exerted himself in
support of the Civil Authority, and for
the restoring Peace and good Order, yet
from a Defect in the manner of
appointing the inferior Peace Officers,
and the difficulty of engaging proper
Persons to take upon them the Office of
a Justice of the Peace, which in
Middlesex and Westminster is attended
with much labour great hazard, and
very small if any Advantage: From
some, or all of these Causes, the Civil
Authority, as Administred, was
inadequate to the purpose of suppressing
the Riots, and that some Method
is necessary to be taken for
the better Securing & preserving the
Peace within the said Districts
The

The third point directed by your Majesty to be enquired into, is, "The Damage sustained at the several Goals and public Buildings, and the means of providing a Remedy for the immediate Inconvenience to the public, by the want of proper places of Confinement". The Damage sustained at the several Goals, having by Directions of this Committee been Surveyed and Estimated by the Officers of the Board of Works, who were required to take into Consideration, the Time, as well as the Expence, necessary for repairing the several prisons; It appears by the Report from the said Officers, that the prison of the King's Bench, and also the prison of the Fleet have received very great Damage; and that the Expence of repairing the said two prisons will amount together to £31,000; That one half of each of the said Prisons may be reinstated in the Course of one year; But that the remainder cannot be completed under less than two years; and the said Report goes on to state, that the New Bridewell in St. Georges Fields has likewise received considerable Damage, of which no particular

Particular Estimate. could be formed by the officers of the Board of Works.

And this Committee further finds, by a return made by Mr Sherman the Keeper of your Majesty's Goal of Newgate, that that Goal is totally destroyed, nothing being left standing but the bare Walls; But that the Workmen are repairing the Old Cells, which will hold about Thirty — Persons, and will soon be ready; And that there is another place, under the Piazza of the Chapel, which will contain as many more, and is now ready.

And it appears also from Mr Sherman's Evidence, that the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs of the City of London, have been Examining a Chapel at Guildhall, with design to convert the same into a Prison.

And it is likewise in Evidence, that the New Prison Blerhemwell is in very good Condition, and Sufficiently Strong for

for the safe Custody of any prisoners who
 may be Committed to the said Prison; —
 And that the House of Correction at
 Clerkenwell has received no Damage; and
 that the two last-mentioned Prisons are
 capable, together of containing to the Number
 of four Hundred prisoners, and upwards; —
 - But for the better preventing any —
 Inconveniences, which may arise to the
 public, from the want of proper places
 of Confinement, in case of want of room
 in those Prisons, which still remain in
 proper State of Security; This Committee
 Submit to your Majesty, whether it may
 not be advisable, that until the Prisons —
 destroyed can be put in proper State of
 Repair, the Sheriff of Middlesex, should
 receive directions to provide proper places
 for receiving and securely guarding any —
 prisoners who may be Committed to
 his Custody.

It appears also by the Evidence of the Keepers
 of the several Prisons, where Acts of Violence —
 have been Committed, that a great Number
 of prisoners, of all Descriptions have been —
 released

Released in Consequence of the late Turnouts,
amounting altogether to 1294, according to
the returns and Accounts given by the Keepers
of Newgate, the King's Bench, the Fleet, -
Clerkenwell Bridewell and New Prison; And
it appears to this Committee, by a Return from
the Sheriff of London and Middlesex, that they
have given the necessary Orders for retaking
the Felons who have been released from
Newgate; and by the Account given by the
Warden of the Fleet, it appears that many
of his prisoners, who were confined for Debt,
have signified to him their readiness to
Surrender; And this Committee take leave
to Report to your Majesty, that upon the
Representation of the Lord Lieutenant
of the County of Surry, of Complaint -
made to him of the want of proper -
places of Confinement in that County, their
Lordships have already given directions to
the High Sheriff of the said County, to take
care forthwith to provide proper places
for the reception and safe Custody of -
prisoners; And it is the Opinion of this Committee
that at all those Goals, where any part of
the Buildings remain, and where the
Damages are capable of being repaired, so
as -

so as that the said Goals may be rendered
 secure, the Repairs should be immediately
 set about, and that Your Majesty's
 Board of works should receive Directions
 accordingly, with respect to the prison
 of the Fleet, and the prison of the King's
 Bench, which are stated to have been
 built, and to be under the Inspection
 of that Board. —

And Lastly this Committee humbly
 submits to Your Majesty, that besides the
 publick Ministers of Foreign Princes
 and States, many Magistrates and other
 Individuals have been great sufferers
 by the late Outrages, several of whom
 appear to us to be highly deserving
 of Compassion. —



The 13. of June 1780

Copy - Report of the
 Lords of the Committee
 of Council, relative to the
 late rebellious Tumults
 in the Cities of London
 and Westminster.