

LOYALIST DOCUMENT 1: Letter from Americanus, printed in the Pennsylvania Gazette, September 25, 1766 (excerpt)

1. At a time when ALMOST EVERY AMERICAN is employed in placing the transactions of the parliament of our mother country IN THE MOST ODIIOUS LIGHT and IN ALIENATING AFFECTIONS of a numerous and loyal people from the royal person of the best of Sovereigns, permit me, however unpopular the task, through the impartial channel of your paper, to point out the imprudence and folly of such conduct, and to give a brief and true state of the facts included in the dispute between Great Britain and her colonies. The highest degree of vanity certainly cannot prompt us to imagine that our Sovereign and his parliament will be intimidated by the IRREVERENT CENSURES and DISLOYAL MENACES of the Americans in their present DISUNITED and DEFENSELESS condition. It is a proof of the greatest infatuation to conceive that we can BULLY the British nation, now at peace with the whole world, and possessed of strength which the united powers of France and Spain could not subdue.

2. The PROTECTION OF AMERICA has, in no small degree, contributed to this burden of the mother country. If then it be contestably just, that America should contribute towards the means of HER OWN SAFETY and the Americans have now acquired a considerable share of property, though it must be confessed, by no means so much as the folly and extravagance of a few have taught our superiors to believe, in proportion to this property, the most plain and evident principle of justice pronounces the equity of their being taxed in order to defray the expense which THEIR OWN SAFETY requires. The power of making war, of protecting and defending British subjects, in every part of the world, and of forming, directing, and executing that protection, is constitutionally vested in the Crown alone. The subject has a right to demand it, whenever he is in danger. This right is purchased by his allegiance which is the reciprocal consideration daily paid for it. America, consisting of a number of colonies in their infant state, and independent of each other, IS IN A PARTICULAR MANNER DEPENDENT on this power, and has a right to demand an exertion of it, TO INSURE ITS SAFETY.

3. The next enquiry that presents itself is BY WHOM is this contribution to be enforced? This seems to be the grant question between Britain and the Colonies. In their present state, this can be done but by one of two modes; their by PARLIAMENT, OR BY THE SEVERAL LEGISLATURES OF AMERICA. The LAST METHOD, no doubt, would be most eligible and agreeable to the Colonies; and we have reason to believe it would be also most agreeable to his Majesty and his Parliament, COULD IT WITH CERTAINTY AND SECURITY TO BOTH BE RELIED UPON. If can be of LITTLE MOMENT to the GENERAL WELFARE, and of course to the King and People of England, WHETHER THESE AIDS ARE GRANTED BY A BRITISH PARLIAMENT, OR THE SEVERAL AMERICAN LEGISLATURES, provided they be really granted.

4. If then it be reasonable that AMERICA should be taxed for HER OWN SAFETY, and her safety depends on her enabling the crown to secure it, if without this she be lost to her mother country, and deprived of her civil as well as religious rights, if SHE HAS BEEN NEGLIGENT OF HER DUTY, AND PERVERSELY OBSTINATE, when those rights, and HER OWN PRESERVATION required a contrary behavior, if SHE has, notwithstanding, been preserved, in a great measure at the expense of her mother country, and IF UNDER HER PRESENT

CIRCUMSTANCES AND DISUNION, IT APPEARS FROM EXPERIENCE THAT THE CROWN CAN HAVE NO DEPENDENCE that SHE will act differently on future occasions, does it not then become the INDESPENSIBLE DUTY OF A BRITISH PARLIAMENT TO INTERFERE AND COMPEL HER TO DO what is so reasonable and necessary FOR HER PRESERVATION?

As America has life, liberty and property to be protected it was thought but just, that she should unite in the measures concerted FOR HER OWN PRESERVATION. The parliament had it then, as well as now, in its power to compel her, without the assent of her legislatures. But instead of making use of that power to levy taxes on us, the most moderate and tender requisitions were sent over to our several legislatures, requiring our proportional aide for this necessary service, attended with the warmest assurances that a considerable part of such aids would be repaid; thus tenderly and affectionately LURING us to the discharge of our duty. Hence it seems manifest, that the administration would have been content with, and even preferred this mode of that of having recourse to an act of Parliament, HAD THE COLONIES AT THAT TIME FULLY COMPLIED WITH ROYAL DEMANDS. Had this been done the suspicion would have been unreasonable, that the present duties and impositions would ever have been laid on America or even thought of.

However, the experiment was made and how did it prove, with respect of the INTEREST, the HONOUR, and DUTY OF AMERICA? Some of our legislatures granted their proportion in time; others late. TOO LATE TO BE OF REAL SERVICE, and SOME NEVER COMPLIED AT ALL, though his Majesty's subjects committed to their care were massacred before their eyes, and British America was in the most imminent danger. And it is worthy of further observation, that such was the TENDERNESS and FORBEARANCE of our mother country, THUS JUSTLY PROVOKED, by the PERVERSE DISOBEDIENCE of SOME OF THE COLONIES at the time, when nothing less that the interest and honor of the whole British dominions were at stake, THAT THEY DID NOT INSTANTLY ENFORCE AN OBEDIENCE BY THE METHODS THEY HAVE NOT TAKEN, which gives us so much uneasiness, but proceeding, year after year, to make trial after trial, in hopes that our legislatures would comply with requisitions so reasonable, and essential to our welfare.

BUT ALL THEIR EXPERIMENTS WERE INEFFECTUAL. The sums of money, granted to parliament FOR OUR PROTECTION WERE OFTEN WASTED, for want of the full and timely aids of the colonies. The failure of several military expeditions was occasioned by this cause alone. And had more of the American provinces been equally regardless of their immediate defense, and our mother country failed in exerting herself on the occasion, we might at this day, be the subjects of the French government, robbed of our liberty, and deprived of the exercise and enjoyment of our inestimable religion.

5. After what has been offered, will any man of candor deny, that the BRITISH GOVERNMENT (in what is constitutionally vested the power of protecting us) OUGHT TO HAVE SOME SECURITY that SUFFICIENT AIDS will be granted by us, not only in any future war, but at THIS TIME, IN ORDER TO PUT AMERICA IN A MORE DEFENSIBLE SITUATION. It is not an improbable conjecture, that in another war she will become the scene of action, and the principal object of the contending powers. Her value, and infinite importance to the possessor,

justifies the thought; should she remain IN HER PRESENT DEFENSELESS STATE, how easily would she become the prey of a foreign invader? And HOW PRECARIOUS HER PROTECTION, SHOULD IT DEPEND ON THE AIDS TO BE GRANTED BY THE COLONIES, in their present disunited state, subject to the various CAPRICES AND HUMORS OF OUR DIFFERENT LEGISLATURES? Shall the colonies be lost to the British Dominions through their own obstinacy, caprice, and folly; and shall not Great Britain, whose interest is inseparably united with theirs, ENDEAVOR TO PREVENT IT?

LOYALIST DOCUMENT 2: Plan of Union, written by Joseph Galloway, September 28, 1774

First order of business for the First Continental Congress, rejected by a six to five vote.

Resolved, that this Congress will apply to His Majesty for a redress of grievances under which his faithful subjects in America labor; and assure him that the colonies hold in abhorrence the idea of being considered independent communities on the British government, and most ardently desire the establishment of a political union, not only among themselves but with the mother state, upon those principles of safety and freedom which are essential in the constitution of all free governments, and particularly that of the British legislature. And as the colonies from their local circumstances cannot be represented in the Parliament of Great Britain, they will humbly propose to His Majesty and his two houses of Parliament the following plan, under which the strength of the whole empire may be drawn together on any emergency, the interest of both countries advanced, and the rights and liberties of America secured: A Plan for a Proposed Union between Great Britain and the Colonies of New Hampshire, the Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, the Three Lower Counties on the Delaware, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.

That a British and American legislature, for regulating the administration of the general affairs of America, be proposed and established in America, including all the said colonies; within and under which government each colony shall retain its present constitution and powers of regulating and governing its own internal police, in all cases whatever.

That the said government be administered by a president general, to be appointed by the King, and a Grand Council, to be chosen by the representatives of the people of the several colonies, in their respective assemblies, once in every three years.

That the several assemblies shall choose members for the Grand Council in the following proportions, viz.: New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware Counties, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, who shall meet at the city for the first time, being called by the president general as soon as conveniently may be after his appointment.

That there shall be a new election of members for the Grand Council every three years; and on the death, removal, or resignation of any member, his place shall be supplied by a new choice at the next sitting of assembly of the colony he represented.

That the Grand Council shall meet once in every year if they shall think it necessary, and oftener if occasions shall require, at such time and place as they shall adjourn to at the last preceding meeting, or as they shall be called to meet at by the president general on any emergency.

That the Grand Council shall have power to choose their speaker, and shall hold and exercise all the like rights, liberties, and privileges as are held and exercised by and in the House of Commons of Great Britain.

That the president general shall hold his office during the pleasure of the King and his assent shall be requisite to all acts of the Grand Council, and it shall be his office and duty to cause them to be carried into execution.

That the president general, by and with the advice and consent of the Grand Council, hold and exercise all the legislative rights, powers, and authorities necessary for regulating and administering all the general police and affairs of the colonies in which Great Britain and the colonies, or any of them, the colonies in general, or more than one colony, are in any manner concerned, as well civil and criminal as commercial.

That the said president general and the Grand Council be an inferior and distinct branch of the British legislature, united and incorporated with it for the aforesaid general purposes; and that any of the said general regulations may originate and be formed and digested, either in the Parliament of Great Britain or in the said Grand Council, and being prepared, transmitted to the other for their approbation or dissent; and that the assent of both shall be requisite to the validity of all such general acts and statutes.

That in time of war, all bills for granting aid to the Crown, prepared by the Grand Council and approved by the president general, shall be valid and passed into a law, without the assent of the British Parliament.

LOYALIST DOCUMENT 3: A Proclamation of the King, for Suppressing Rebellion and Seditious, August 23, 1775

Whereas many of our subjects in divers parts of our Colonies and Plantations in North America, misled by dangerous and ill designing men, and forgetting the allegiance which they owe to the power that has protected and supported them; after various disorderly acts committed in disturbance of the publick peace, to the obstruction of lawful commerce, and to the oppression of our loyal subjects carrying on the same; have at length proceeded to open and avowed rebellion, by arraying themselves in a hostile manner, to withstand the execution of the law, and traitorously preparing, ordering and levying war against us:

And whereas, there is reason to apprehend that such rebellion hath been much promoted and encouraged by the traitorous correspondence, counsels and comfort of divers wicked and desperate persons within this Realm:

To the end therefore, that none of our subjects may neglect or violate their duty through ignorance thereof, or through any doubt of the protection which the law will afford to their loyalty and zeal, we have thought fit, by and with the advice of our Privy Council, to issue our Royal Proclamation, hereby declaring, that not only all our Officers, civil and military, are obliged to exert their utmost endeavours to suppress such rebellion, and to bring the traitors to justice, but that all our subjects of this Realm, and the dominions thereunto belonging, are bound by law to be aiding and assisting in the suppression of such rebellion, and to disclose and make known all traitorous conspiracies and attempts against us, our crown and dignity; and we do accordingly strictly charge and command all our Officers, as well civil as military, and all others our obedient and loyal subjects, to use their utmost endeavours to withstand and suppress such rebellion, and to disclose and make known all treasons and traitorous conspiracies which they shall know to be against us, our crown and dignity; and for that purpose, that they transmit to one of our principal Secretaries of State, or other proper officer, due and full information of all persons who shall be found carrying on correspondence with, or in any manner or degree aiding or abetting the persons now in open arms and rebellion against our Government, within any of our Colonies and Plantations in North America, in order to bring to condign punishment the authors, perpetrators, and abettors of such traitorous designs.

Given at our Court at St. James's the twenty-third day of August, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-five, in the fifteenth year of our reign.

GOD save the KING.