A

SPEECH

AGAINST

Sir Robert Walpole's

PROPOSAL

For increasing the CIVIL LIST Revenue:

As it was Spoken in the House of Commons, *July* 3. 1727.

By William Shippen Esq;

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A SPEECH AGAINST Sir Robert Walpole's PROPOSAL, &c.

I AGREE with *the Honourable Person* who ſpoke firſt, That *on His Majeſty's Happy Acceſſion to the Throne*, there ought to be no other *Contention* amongſt Us, than who ſhould moſt contribute to His *Service*,

Service, than who ſhould expreſs their *Duty*, and *Loyalty*, in the *moſt Reſpectful* and the *moſt Extenſive manner*. But then I hope He will agree with me, That this is to be done, with *ſome Regard* to *Thoſe We Repreſent*: That this is to be done, conſiſtent with *the Truſt* repoſed in us, conſiſtent with *that Frugality*, which *this Houſe* is *bound* to uſe, whenever *the Crown* is pleaſed to call upon it, to exerciſe its *Great Power of giving Money*.

Now, notwithſtanding what has been urged, I think we ſhall ſo far depart from *this Rule of Frugality*, as we exceed the *Revenue* granted to *His late Majeſty*, whether *that Exceeding* ſhall amount yearly to *Ninety Three Thouſand Pounds*, as computed at the higheſt by *the Honourable Perſon*, or to *Above an Hundred and Thirty Thouſand Pounds*, as I have ſeen it *more truly* computed by *Another*.

ther. For I remember very well, that the *yearly Sum of Seven Hundred Thouſand Pounds* (tho' now thought *too little*) was not obtained for *His late Majeſty*, without a *long* and *ſolemn Debate*; and it was allowed by every one that contended for it, to be an *Ample Royal Revenue*. Nor was it ask'd inconſiderately, and on a ſudden; it was asked on mature Deliberation, after *the Queen's Civil Liſt Branches* were found *deficient*; it was asked after *many Computations* had been made of *every Charge* requiſite to ſupport *the Honour and Dignity of the Crown*, and to maintain *the preſent Royal Family*: It was asked after *duly weighing*, *what Proviſion* would be ſufficient to anſwer *all the ordinary and extraordinary Occaſions of the Civil Government*, what would be ſufficient to anſwer *all Proper Augmentations of Salaries*, *all Reaſonable and Charitable Penſions*, *all Secret Services at Home and Abroad*, neceſſary to

to carry on *a just and wise Administration:* It was asked by the *Honourable Person Himself*, and *Others*, who were *entering into great Employments*, who were *going to taste of the Royal Bounty*, and who therefore could not possibly be suspected to have any Design of *cramping His Majesty*, by a *too contracted and narrow Revenue.*

NOR does *the late Alteration* in the *Royal Family* call for *any Increase of Expence.* For if *the Establishment for the Queen* should be *enlarged*, whose *Distinguished Character*, and *many Princely Virtues* (taken Notice of in *Your Address*) entitle Her to *all Degrees of Grandeur*, which any former *Queen Consort* ever enjoyed; I say, if *Her Establishment* should be *enlarged*, I presume *the Establishment for Prince* FREDERICK will be *much inferior* to *that* settled on *His present Majesty*, when *Prince of* Wales. Besides, *our ardent Wishes* for *His Maje-*

Majesty's constant Residence in these Kingdoms, and *His Royal Intentions* of *making us a great and happy People*, give us Hopes, that *many Personal, many Particular Expences* in *the late Reign*, especially *those for frequent Journies to* Hanover, will be discontinued, and entirely cease.

NOR is it *any Objection* to *the Reasoning of that Time*, when *the Seven Hundred Thousand Pounds* were granted to *the late King*, or to *the Computations* then made, that *This Sum* is said to have been *found by* THE EXPERIENCE OF PAST TIMES, *to be answerable to the Necessities of the Civil Government.*

FOR THIS EXPERIENCE could not *be found* in *the Queen's Reign*, because *Her Civil List Branches* seldom amounted to *Six Hundred Thousand Pounds*, commonly to *about Five Hundred and Fifty Thousand*

 Pounds,

Pounds, and ſometimes *to a very little above Five Hundred Thouſand Pounds*, as appears *by Accounts* formerly laid before this Houſe, and I will not ſuppoſe *thoſe Accounts*, which were brought from *the Treaſury* to be *otherwiſe than true*, in Regard to *my Honourable Friend*------- I ask Pardon------I ſhould have ſaid, *the Honourable Perſon*, for there is *no Friendſhip* betwixt us. But He muſt give me Leave to obſerve, That when He aſſerts, *Her Civil Liſt Branches* amounted to *above Seven Hundred Thouſand Pounds yearly*, He can only mean *the groſs*, and not *the neat Produce*, which is a very *Uncandid* and *Fallacious* way of Arguing.

THO' *Her Revenues* were *ſo low*, yet She called upon Her Parliament but *once* in a Reign of about Thirteen Years, to pay *the Debts contracted in Her Civil Government*; and it is a Juſtice due to the Memory of

of *That Excellent Princeſs*, to remind Gentlemen of *the unparallel'd Inſtances of Her Piety and Generoſity*, which occaſioned *thoſe Debts*. She gave *the Firſt Fruits and Tenths*, ariſing now (as *the Honourable Perſon* ſays) to *Nineteen Thouſand Pounds a Year*, for the *Augmentation of the Maintenance of the Poor Clergy*. She gave *Five Thouſand Pounds a Year* out of *the Poſt-Office* to *the Duke of* Marlborough: She ſuffer'd *Seven Hundred Pounds a Week* to be likewiſe charged on *the Poſt-Office*, for *the Publick Service*, and by that Conceſſion loſt *a vaſt Sum*; the *Additional Duty then producing only Eight Thouſand Pounds a Year*. She gave *ſeveral Hundred Thouſand Pounds* for building *the Caſtle of* Blenheim. She allowed *Prince* Charles *of* Denmark *Four Thouſand Pounds a Year*. She ſuſtained great Loſſes by *the Tin Contract*. She ſupported *the poor* Palatines. Theſe, with *many other Royal Boun-*

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ties * (which eſcape my *preſent Remembrance)* were the Reaſons, that brought Her under a *Neceſſity* of asking for *Five Hundred Thouſand Pounds*. But She was ſo ſenſible of *the Inconvenience*, and ſo determined never to apply to Her Parliament again in *the like Manner*, that She ordered *a conſiderable Reduction* to be made of Her *Civil Government Expences*. I have ſeen *a Scheme of that Reduction*, as it was *actually ſettled* a little before Her Death, and intended *to commence the* Lady-Day *following*. 'Twould be tedious to go thro' *all the particular Articles of it*, and I will only name *three or four*. *The Cofferer's Office* Payments were *reduced* from *Eighty Five Thouſand Pounds* to *Seventy Five Thouſand*. *The Allowances for Foreign Miniſters*,

* She gave *An Hundred Thouſand Pounds* to *the Uſes of the War*.

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from *Seventy Five Thouſand Pounds* to *Thirty Thouſand*. *Penſions* and *Bounties* from *Eighty Seven Thouſand Four Hundred and Ninety odd Pounds*, to *Sixty Thouſand*. *Secret Services* from *Twenty Seven Thouſand Pounds* to *Twenty Thouſand*; a Sum *ſurprizingly ſmall!* when compared with *the late Disburſements on that Head*. In ſhort, *the whole yearly Expences* were deſigned to be *Reduced* to *Four Hundred Fifty Nine Thouſand Nine Hundred Forty One Pounds*; and that would have been done, without *eclipſing the Glory of the Crown*, which *ſome Gentlemen ſo roundly affirm*, cannot *Now* be maintained under *almoſt a Double Appointment*.

FROM hence it appears plainly, that this Argument of THE EXPERIENCE OF PAST TIMES, can have no Reference to *the Queen's Reign*. It muſt therefore be applied (tho' put in *the Plural Number)* to *the*

the late Administration Only; and I confess, if *the same Management* was to be *continued*, if the *same Ministers* were to be *again employed*, *a Million a Year* would not be sufficient to carry on *the Exorbitant Expences*, so often, and so justly complained of in *this House*. For it is *Notorious*, it is Fresh in all our Memories, that besides *the Yearly Seven Hundred Thousand Pounds*, there have been many *Occasional Taxes*, many *excessive Sums* raised, and they have been All sunk in **that bottomless Gulf of Secret Service**. First, *the memorable Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Pounds* were raised (in Defiance of the ancient Parliamentary Methods) to secure us from the *Apprehensions of a* Swedish *Invasion*. Then the *two Insurance Offices* were erected in as *Irregular a Manner*, by *a Bill* brought into this House (at the latter End of a Session, and after *the Committee of Supply* had been *closed*) by

by *the Honourable Person*, on *His Return into Power*, and *those* **Bubbles** payed *near Three Hundred Thousand Pounds* for *their Charters*. Then a *new Scene of Affairs opening in* Sweden, changed *our Enmity* into *an Alliance*; there was *a Subsidy of Seventy Two Thousand Pounds* implicitly granted to make good **some secret Bargain**, and *Engagement with that Crown*. At the same time, *near Twenty Four Thousand Pounds* were given for *burning two Merchant Ships* arrived from *infected Places*. But tho' *the Goods*, as well as *the Ships*, were payed for by *this House*, that they might (without Injury to *the Owners*) be destroyed for *the publick Safety*, yet most of them were *privately conveyed* into the Counties adjacent to *the Port* where the Ships lay, and *Sold* there. Then soon after *a Sum of Five Hundred Thousand Pounds* was *demanded* and *granted* for the Payment of *the Civil List Debts*:

Debts: On which Occasion *His late Majesty* declared in *His Message*, that *He was resolved to cause a Retrenchment to be made of His Expences for the future.* But notwithstanding *that Resolution*, in less than four Years (*the Necessities of the Government having rendered* the promised Retrenchment *impracticable*) there was *a new Demand*, and *a new Grant* of *Five Hundred Thousand Pounds* more, to discharge *new Incumbrances.* I might mention too *the* Spanish *Ships* which were taken in *the famous Mediterranean Sea-Fight*, and (as we have Reason to believe) sold for *a considerable Sum of Money.* Nor is it possible to forget *the Hundred and Twenty Thousand Pounds*, which we could only be told the last Session (in a *general unexplained Article*) were **secretly** disposed of, for *the publick Utility*, for the *Conservation of the Peace of* Europe, and for the

the *Security of the Commerce, and Navigation of* Great Britain.

AFTER all These and Other *Extraordinary Supplies* (I am informed) there yet remains *a Debt in the Civil Government of above Six Hundred Thousand Pounds.* If so, surely there must have been a *most egregious Neglect of Duty*, to say no worse; there must have been *a Strange Spirit of Extravagance* somewhere, or *such Immense Sums* could never have been so soon, so insensibly *squandered away.* And it is amazing, *this Extravagance* should happen under *the Conduct of Persons* pretending to surpass *all their Predecessors* in *the Knowledge and Care of the Publick Revenue*: But we are not to wonder, that the World has been *very free in its Censures*, since none of *these Sums* have been *accounted for*, since they have been imployed in *Services not fit to be owned.* None but those, who were in **the**

 Secret,

Secret, and who had *the Disposal* of them, can refute *the Reflections*, that are made without Doors, not only on *the Ministry*, but even on *both Houses of Parliament.*——I must say no more——But I heartily wish, that *Time* (the great Discoverer of *hidden Truths*, and *concealed Iniquities*) may produce a **List** of All *Such* (if any *Such* there were) who have been perverted from their *Publick Duty*, by *private Pensions* who have been **the Hired Slaves, and the corrupt Instruments of a Profuse, and Vain-glorious Administration.** If there have been none *Such*, then the whole Weight, then the whole Guilt of the *late Mismanagements* lies on *the Ministers themselves.*

But it seems to be Matter of *universal Joy* to the Nation, that *the Case* is like to be *altered.* We hope we

we are arrived at *a Day of better OEconomy*, we hope *such Practices* will be so far from being *imitated*, that they will be *detested and abhorred.* Nor can any one entertain the least Doubt of this, when He considers, *a Prince is ascending the Throne*, who will choose a *knowing, faithful and frugal Ministry*; who will not permit *His Domestick* or *Foreign Affairs* to be *negotiated* by *Bribery*, and *Corruption*, for want of *Sufficiency and Skill in Politicks*; Whose Wisdom will enable Him, and whose *Goodness* will incline Him, not only to *inspect* the *Management* of *His Civil List Branches*, but in *Justice* to His Parliaments, and in *Compassion* to His People, to *direct* and *require* a due and exact Disposition of *all the Other Publick Fonds*, according to their *respective Appropriations.*

Now, in Consequence of this most just Notion of *His Majesty's*

Frugality (which amongst *other His innumerable Virtues*, endears Him so much to His Subjects) I hope I may, without Offence, propose the Addition of *some Words to Your Question*, that may restrain it to *Seven Hundred Thousand Pounds*; and in this I as much consult *the Service of His Majesty*, and *the Honour and Dignity of the Crown*, as Those, who are for granting *the Fonds* without *any Restriction*. For (in my humble Opinion) *the Voting a greater Sum* than was settled on *His late Majesty*, is only *Voting an Indemnity*, is *Voting* at least in *Favour of Ministers*, whose *Conduct* (as I have already hinted) if *laid* before You, and *duly Examined*, would perhaps rather deserve *Your Censure*, than *Approbation*.

BESIDES, *the Surplus of these Branches* is *appropriated* to **The Sinking**

Sinking Fond; and *That*, I thought, had been *a Sacred Depositum*, reserved for the *gradual Discharge of the* **National Debt.** I thought it would have been look'd upon as *a Sort of Sacrilege*, to have diverted the least Part of it (on any Pretence whatsoever) from *its original Uses*; and it is as surprizing to me, that *The Honourable Person* should be for destroying *His own Darling Project*; that He should be for pulling down *the boasted Monument of His Glory*, as it may be to others, that I am for supporting *any Scheme of His*, which might have transmitted *His Name* with *Advantage* to Posterity.

IF *His Majesty* was rightly apprized of *these Circumstances*, He would doubtless rather be content with *a clear annual Revenue of Seven Hundred Thousand Pounds*, than suffer

ſuffer *His Firſt Demand of Money*, (by any *precipitate Proof of our Zeal*) to carry the leaſt Appearance of being *burthenſome to His People*, who have long laboured under *the Preſſure of* **Grievous** *and* **Exorbitant Taxes.** For He has been graciouſly pleaſed to *ſignify* from *the Throne, His Fixed Reſolution*,

By all poſſible Means to merit their Love and Affection, which He ſhall always look upon as the beſt Support and Security of His Crown.

I WILL detain You, Sir, no longer, but deſire You would conclude *Your Queſtion* with theſe Words,

In

In like manner as they were granted and continued to His late Majeſty, which may make up the clear yearly Sum of Seven Hundred Thouſand Pounds.

FINIS.