ran not upon Robert Earl of Orford, but Robert Earl of Sandys.[5] He is the constant butt of the party; indeed he bears it notably. After five hours' haranguing, we came to a division, and threw out the motion by a majority of sixty-seven, 253 against 186.[6] The Prince had declared so openly for union and agreement in all measures, that except the nepotism,[7] all his servants but one were with us. I don't know whether they will attempt anything else, but with these majorities, we must have an easy winter. The union of the Whigs[7a] has saved this Parliament. It is expected that Pitt and Lyttelton will be dismissed by the Prince:[8] that faction and Waller are the only Whigs of any note that do not join with the Court.—I do not count Doddington, who must now be always with the minority, for no majority will accept him. It is believed that Lord Gower will retire or be desired to do so.[9] I suppose you have heard from Rome[10] that Murray is made solicitor-general in the room of Sir John Strange, who has resigned for his health.[11] This is the sum of polities; we can't expect any winter

5. Samuel Sandys, chancellor of the Exchequer, in the room of Sir R. Walpole (HW). 'This day [1 Dec.] the Lord Strange made a motion in the House of Commons for reviving the Secret Committee against the . . . Earl of Orford, but the Court party opposed the motion and carried their point by a majority of 67. . . . I believe they [the Ministry] were drove to it by the enmity sprung up between them and their old friends . . . enraged that the others got first into place. . . . But Mr Sandys . . . told his friends at a meeting the night before at his home, that this motion . . . must be opposed, for otherwise the King would dismiss the Ministry' (Hist. MSS Comm., *Egmont Diary,* 1920–3, iii. 267–8).

6. These figures are confirmed by *Journals of the House of Commons,* loc. cit.

7. The Grenvilles, Pitt, and Lyttelton.

7a. Sir Robert Walpole expected that under Pelham 'all the independent Whigs will 'list and unite,' although the Tories 'think they have now an opportunity' (Coxe, *Pelham Administration* i. 35).

8. Pitt remained as the Prince's groom of the Bedchamber until 1745, and Lyttelton as the Prince's principal secretary until 1744. The rumours of dismissal were strengthened by such items as that in *Daily Adv.* 3 Dec. OS: ' 'Tis reported that several alterations will soon be made in the family of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.'

9. He resigned 8 Dec. 1743 OS in a private audience with George II (Hist. MSS Comm., *Egmont Diary,* 1920–3, iii. 278). The rumour of his resignation may have arisen from his having 'refused going to the cabinet' (Richard Grenville to George Grenville 22 Nov. 1742 OS in *Grenville Papers* i. 19).

10. Where Murray's brother, the titular Earl of Dunbar, was the Pretender's chief adviser (*ante* 2 May 1740 NS, n. 4).

11. 'Having received a considerable addition to my fortune, and some degree of ease and retirement being judged proper for my health, I this term resigned my offices of solicitor-general, King's counsel, and recorder of the City of London, and left off my practice at the House of Lords, Council Table, Delegates, and all the courts in Westminster Hall except the King's Bench, and there also at the afternoon sittings. His Majesty . . . honoured me with his patent to take place for life next to his attorney-general' (Sir John Strange, *Reports* ii. 1176 quoted in *English Reports, King's Bench* xxii. 1110). *The Causidicade, a Panegyri-Satiri-Serio-Comic-*