

## IV THE DIE IS CAST

### 4 The New Jersey Assembly's Endorsement of the Action of the Continental Congress

[*Votes and Proceedings, January 11-February 13, 1775* (Burlington, 1775), pp. 16-17.]

At first it appeared that Governor William Franklin's eloquent appeal for moderation (see Doc. 2) would prevent endorsement of the Continental Congress by the assembly. But the Jersey congressional delegates were determined to see that their labors to effect a united colonial front of opposition had not been in vain. After considerable lobbying with their fellow representatives, they carried the day without formal dissent from opponents of the Congress. Their success was predictable because almost all Jerseymen believed that intercolonial solidarity was the key to obtaining satisfaction from the British government, because the province could ill afford to stand alone while the other colonies fell in behind the Congress, and because the assemblymen wished to maintain their collective position as nominal head of the protest movement in the colony.

January 24, 1775

Mr. Crane and Mr. Kinsey<sup>1</sup> also laid before the House the Proceedings of the Continental Congress held at Philadelphia in September last, which were read; On the Question, Whether the House approved of the said Proceedings? It passed in the Affirmative.

*Resolved*, That this House do unanimously approve of the Proceedings of the Congress—such as are of the People called Quakers excepting only to such Parts as seem to wear an Appearance, or may have a Tendency, to Force (if any such there be) as inconsistent with their religious Principles.

*Resolved unanimously*, That James Kinsey, Stephen Crane, William Livingston, John D'Hart and Richard Smith Esquires,<sup>2</sup> or any three of them, be, and they are hereby appointed to attend the Continental Congress of the Colonies, intended to be held at the City of Philadelphia in May next, or at any other Time and Place,<sup>3</sup> and that they report their Proceedings to the next Session of General Assembly—instructing the said Delegates to propose and agree to every reasonable and constitutional Measure for the Accommodation of the unhappy Differences at present subsisting between our Mother Country and the Colonies, which the House most ardently wish for. . . .

*Ordered*, That Mr. Speaker<sup>4</sup> do transmit a Copy of the foregoing Resolutions to the Speakers of the Assemblies of New-York and Pennsylvania.

*Resolved unanimously*, That the Thanks of this House be given to James Kinsey, Stephen Crane, William Livingston, John D'Hart, and Richard Smith, Esquires, for their faithful and judicious Discharge of the Trust reposed in them at the late Continental Congress.

## NEW JERSEY IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

1. Stephen Crane and James Kinsey, delegates to the First Continental Congress.
2. This is the same delegation as was sent to the first Congress. See Sec. III, Doc. 4.
3. Prior to adjournment, the first Congress resolved to meet in May 1775 if the dispute with Britain had not been resolved by that time.
4. Cortlandt Skinner.

### 5 “A Jersey Farmer” Proposes a Loyalist Association

[*Rivington's New-York Gazetteer*. . . , January 26, 1775.]

Opponents of the popular front, whether staunch royalists or conservatives dedicated to law and order, began to band together in the aftermath of the First Continental Congress. However, their activities were loosely organized, covert, and clandestine. The counter-association proposed by “A Jersey Farmer” never got beyond the stage of rhetoric; there were no formal Loyalist organizations in New Jersey until the summer of 1776.

[January 26, 1775]

Mr. Rivington:<sup>1</sup>

I am a plain countryman, and know that many of my good honest neighbours disapprove of most of the late measures and proceedings of the Congress, as well as myself; and some of them having expressed a desire, that some person would draw up a paper declarative of their sentiments, they would sign it, as the only method now left them of disavowing their ever having countenanced, or concurred in the late measures. I take the liberty, through the channel of your *useful paper*, to convey the following (to them, and others in like circumstances) which they may adopt or modify to their liking. I am,

Your most humble servant,

A Jersey Farmer

A Proposal for an Association; Humbly offered  
to all Lovers of good order and government, in America

We the subscribers, having taken into our most serious consideration the grievances complained of, by the tendency and operation of certain acts of the British Parliament, relative to America, with the modes and measures adopted by *many* of the inhabitants of this country for obtaining redress; by appointing town and county meetings, provincial congresses, and lastly, a *congress* of deputies from