NEW JERSEY IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

7 The Resolution of the New Jersey Assembly
Supporting the Boycott to Oppose the Townshend Duties

[Votes and Proceedings, October 10-December 6, 1769
(Burlington, 1770), p. 16.]

A boycott of British manufactured goods, a tactic seemingly used to good
effect during the Stamp Act crisis, spread slowly throughout America in 1768
and 1769. By the end of 1769 only New Hampshire had not instituted some
form of economic coercion aimed at securing repeal of the Townshend duties.
Because New Jersey had virtually no direct trade with England and only a small
mercantile community, the colony was not immediately caught up in or affected
by the nonimportation agreements. It was only when Philadelphia adopted
economic sanctions in the spring of 1769 that the boycott took hold in Jersey.
The legislative resolution which follows is the first official recognition of the
existence of the boycott in New Jersey; in making its sentiments public, the
assembly once again asserted itself as the leader of the resistance movement
in the province.

House of Assembly, October 18, 1769

Upon Motion made by Mr. Hinchman,1 Resolved, Nemine Contradicente.
That the Thanks of this House be given to the Merchants and Traders of this Colony,
and of the Colonies of New-York and Pennsylvania, for their disinterested and public
spirited Conduct, in withholding their Importations of British Merchandize, until
certain Acts of Parliament, laying Restrictions on American Commerce, for the
express Purpose of raising a Revenue in America, be repealed; And that Mr. Speaker2
be directed to write to the respective Committees of Merchants in said Colonies,
transmitting them a Copy of this Resolve.

1. John Hinchman of Gloucester, who perhaps acted in response to
instructions from his constituents. See Doc. 6.
2. Cortlandt Skinner.