

## 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,<sup>1</sup> *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of Parliament, laying Restrictions on American Commerce, for the express Purpose of raising a Revenue in America, be repealed; And that Mr. Speaker<sup>2</sup> 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.