

Scene 3:

Student 4 - Ivy

Student 5 - Zohe

Betsy - Nora

John Adams - Remy

James Otis - Kethan

Student 4: What do they mean, “it pays?” Does being an empire come with a salary and a retirement plan and stuff like that?

Betsy: Even better. England was in debt for over 140 million pounds. King George and Parliament figure the colonies could help pay.

Student 5: 140 million pounds?! Wow! You’d need to diet for years to lose that.

Betsy: Pounds as in English money, dear. The British Parliament passed a series of acts that placed duties and taxes on the colonists. By 1767 they weren’t happy.

(They exit. John Adams and James Otis enter)

John Adams: Mr. Otis, what’s the latest?

Otis: John Adams! I’m glad I ran into you. It’s another British outrage. They’ve passed the Townsend Acts, which put import duties on just about everything.

Adams: I didn’t think it could get any worse. We’ve already had the Hat Act, the Wool Act, the Iron Act, the Currency Act and the Sugar Act.

Otis: I know it. The British just can’t get their Acts together.

Adams: Remember the Stamp Act?

Otis: A direct tax on everything we printed, from cards to calendars.

Adams: I love what you said. What was it again? “Taxation without representation is exploitation.”

Otis: Tyranny.

Adams: What?

Otis: I said **tyranny**. “Taxation without representation is **tyranny**.”

Adams: You did?

(pauses, then)

Doesn't really rhyme, does it?

Otis: It's not supposed to rhyme. It's an aphorism.

Adams: Well, of course, but the good ones rhyme. Take Ben Franklin's maxims. “He that goes a borrowing, goes a sorrowing.” “Little strokes fell great oaks.” “Plough deep while sluggards sleep.”

Otis: (interrupting) Okay, I get it. The point is the British are not treating us as equals but as subjects. They've prohibited us from settling beyond the Appalachians. They've even started enforcing the Navigation Laws so all commerce between England and here must be by British vessels.

Adams: You're right. This has got to stop.

Song 3: Taxation without Representation

(John Adams, James Otis alternate solos on verse 1)