

Rolling Toward Revolution... February, 2024



British Royal Coat of Arms 1771

In London: Benjamin Franklin, still smarting from his dress-down by British privy council officials and without employment as of Feb 1st (They fired him from his official position as deputy postmaster), refused to give up. He continued to try to mediate and explain colonial and crown positions in the hope of achieving reconciliation in published articles and essays. He lobbied for restraint in response to the Boston “incident”. Lord North and his ministry in the meantime were determined to punish what they regarded as criminal destruction of property. As the investigation was proving fruitless in discovering the guilty parties, they began to consider more punitive action.

In Boston: Everyone was waiting for the other shoe to drop. What would the response to “the incident” be?

In **New Jersey**, the Provincial Assembly returned to session this month to consider local issues. Once a quorum was reached, they enacted laws to improve the money situation in the colony—laws on banking allowed easier borrowing, but no “legal tender” was adopted for New Jersey, a defeat for Governor Franklin who wanted this badly. With the Governor’s failure to address local grievances including corrupt customs officials and demands to raise additional money to support judges and the crown’s officials, resentment to the provincial government continued to smolder. However, the Assembly also decided on February 8 to appoint a **standing New Jersey Committee of Correspondence** in response to Virginia’s letter of some months before. Hendrick Fisher was appointed to the three-man committee charged with writing to the members of the colonial communication network and reporting all “early and authentic intelligence” to the Assembly.

Sources

Britannia online: <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Benjamin-Franklin/Public-service>;
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/American-colonies/The-Intolerable-Acts#ref1268865>

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