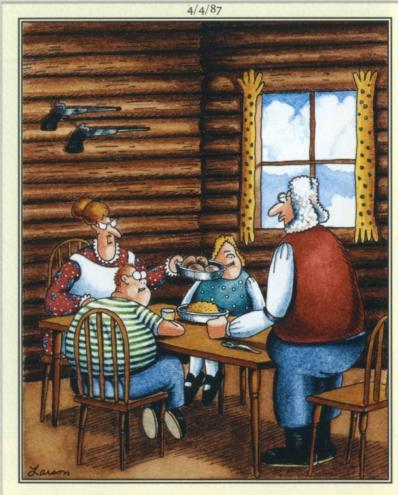


American statesman Patrick Henry delivers his patriotic 'Give me liberty, or give me death!' speech before the Virginia Assembly in this artwork by Currier & Ives. MPI/GETTY IMAGES

me liberty, or give me death!" Henry had argued words spoken are the subject of debate by historithat war with the British Empire was inevitable ans. Biographer William Wirt created a reconand necessary, and the speech was aimed at per-struction of the speech in 1817 after corresponding suading attendees, including future U.S. presidents with attendees and others decades after it was George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, to agree delivered, based on their recollections. Historians to sending Virginian troops to battle for independ- question how much of the recreated speech was ence. Gaining support at the convention, Henry Henry's words versus Wirt's own version of what assembled and led a local militia that weeks later was said.

merican politician Patrick Henry deliver- fended off a British attempt to seize a stash of ed an impassioned speech at a convention gunpowder at Williamsburg. Henry went on to held at St. John's Church in Richmond, become Virginia's first governor. Though Henry's Na., finishing with the famous line: "Give speech did sway the influential audience, his exact



"For crying out loud, Patrick—sit down. ...
And enough with the 'give me the potatoes or give me death' nonsense."

Somehow I have a memory of another Gary Larson "Far Side" cartoon in which Patrick Henry is a little boy rising up to exclaim "Give me the salt or give me death!" only to have his mother shush him. TJB