

ADAMS

560 *Ten Great Musicals of the American Theatre*

SCENE 1

In front of the curtain.

JOHN ADAMS: I have come to the conclusion that one useless man is called a disgrace, that two are called a law firm, and that three or more become a Congress. And by God, I have had *this* Congress! For ten years King George and his Parliament have gulled, cullied, and diddled these Colonies with their illegal taxes—Stamp Acts, Townshend Acts, Sugar Acts, *Tea* Acts—and when we *dared* to stand up like men they stopped our trade, seized our ships, blockaded our ports, burned our towns, *and* spilled our blood—and still this Congress won't grant any of my proposals on Independence even so much as the courtesy of open debate! Good God, what in hell are they waiting for?