

HANCOCK

MORRIS: Mr. Secretary, New York abstains—courteously.

HANCOCK: Mr. Morris, why does New York constantly abstain? Why doesn't New York simply stay in New York? Very well, the vote is tied. (*He covers his eyes for a moment*) The principles of independence have no greater advocate in Congress than its President—and that is why I must join those who vote for unanimity.

JOHN: (*As the Congress reacts, stunned, he jumps up, horrified*) Good God! What're y'doing, John? You've sunk us!

HANCOCK: Hear me out. Don't you see that any colony who opposes independence will be forced to fight on the side of England—that we'll be setting brother against brother, that our new nation will carry as its emblem the mark of Cain? I can see no other way. Either we walk together or together we must stay where we are. (*A silence*) Very well. Proceed, Mr. Thomson.