

DICKINSON, JEFFERSON, WILSON

DICKINSON: Mr. Jefferson, I have very little interest in your paper, as there is no doubt in my mind that we have all but heard the last of it. But I am curious about one thing: why do you refer to King George as a tyrant?

JEFFERSON: Because he is a tyrant.

DICKINSON: I remind you, Mr. Jefferson, that this "tyrant" is still your King.

JEFFERSON: When a king becomes a tyrant he thereby breaks the contract binding his subjects to him.

DICKINSON: How so?

JEFFERSON: By taking away their rights.

DICKINSON: Rights that came from him in the first place.

JEFFERSON: All except one—the right to be free comes from nature.

DICKINSON: Mr. Wilson, do we in Pennsylvania consider King George a tyrant?

WILSON: Hmm? Well—I don't know. (*As he meets DICKINSON's stony stare*) Oh. No—no, we don't. He's not a tyrant—in Pennsylvania.

DICKINSON: There you are, Mr. Jefferson. Your Declaration does not speak for us all. I demand the word "tyrant" be removed! (*THOMSON begins scratching it out*)

JEFFERSON: Just a moment, Mr. Thomson, I do not consent. The King is a tyrant whether we say so or not. We might as well say so.

THOMSON: But I already scratched it out.

JEFFERSON: (*Forcefully*) Then scratch it back in!
(*A surprised silence*)