

Play 3 - Boston Tea Party: December 16th 1773

Speakers:

Sam Adams (Patriot)

Rotch (part-owner of tea-ship, Dartmouth)

Mohawk Indian (disguised Patriot)

Governor Hutchinson

American merchant

British merchant (employee of E. India Company)

Sam Adams: Now *there* was a party to end all parties! The Boston Tea Party! What a riot!

Rotch: What a *waste*! Since *when* was throwing 342 chests of perfectly good tea – into the ocean – a *good* idea?

British merchant: A wicked waste indeed! To board those ships in such an act of piracy!

Mohawk Indian: Er, look again at my costume, why don't you? I think you'll see we were *Indians*, not *pirates*!

Hutchinson: Whatever you were! Or rather, whatever you *pretended* to be! Don't think for one *minute* we were fooled by your outfits! Mohawk Indians, indeed!

Rotch: No. More like rebellious good-for-nothing colonists! What a nerve – boarding my ship, the

Dartmouth, and then the other two – the Eleanor and the Beaver!

Hutchinson: And all in a mere 3 hours!

British merchant: Ten thousand pounds worth of tea! Dumped! Talk about daylight robbery!

American merchant: And what about *your* robbery – or that imposed by your government! *First* the Tea Tax and *then* giving exclusive rights to that East India Company – for *them* and *them alone* to sell tea in the colonies. How were *we* supposed to make *our* living?

Sam Adams: Yet another example of unfair British rule! What say did *we* ever have in such decisions? *None!*

Mohawk Indian: No wonder we rose up in rebellion! No wonder we were forced to take matters into our own hands!

Hutchinson: But what about the law? Did you have *no* regard for Well, for your *bettters*?

Mohawk Indian: What? *You* lot? *Our* patience was *all* used up. We had no more time for *you* and your 'fancy ways'!

Sam Adams: Especially when they were always to *your* advantage.

American merchant: Exactly! *We* had to make a living *too*, you know!

Oh but I'm forgetting – there was that *little* matter of 'vested interest' (looking at Hutchinson), wasn't there, Sir?

Hutchinson: What? You mean my two sons working for the East India Company? Of course not! It really *never* occurred to me!

Mohawk Indian: What? Are you trying to tell us you didn't for *one* minute think it might be to their advantage to have a monopoly on tea sales?

Hutchinson: Er, em

Sam Adams: Huh! Of *course* it occurred to him! There were *his* sons getting rich at the expense of *our* sons.

British merchant: Huh! Those good for nothing Sons of Liberty!

Mohawk Indian: Just as well someone was looking out for *our* interests!
We were *never* going to have justice at the hands of the British!

Rotch: Oooh! The waste! All my fine tea into the ocean – just to make a point!

Hutchinson: Well, at least they left your ship, and the others,
in one piece!

Sam Adams: Quite so! It was no act of vandalism. Everything was
left *exactly* as it had been.

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