

# Impeachment of Nixon Urged at Re-enactment

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BOSTON, Dec. 15—Thousands rallied here today for the impeachment of President Nixon at an official Bicentennial re-enactment of the Boston Tea Party.

The demonstrators threw oil barrels into Boston harbor from the deck of a reproduction of an 18th-century sailing vessel in what they termed the "Boston Oil Party." The re-enactment of the tea party was the opening event of the nation's celebration of the 200th anniversary of the American Revolution.

In snow turning to a cold rain, some 10,000 people lined docksides and bridges on the waterfront as a large papier-mâché effigy of the President was rowed about in a small boat.

From a powerful loudspeaker operated by the People's Bicentennial Commission, the organizers of the demonstration, on the fourth floor of a nearby warehouse, a voice asked:

"How many people think he should be taken to the boat and hung?"

An enormous cheer broke out.

"Is anybody opposed?" the voice asked.

There was silence.

The demonstration came on a weekend of activities here sponsored by the city to celebrate the anniversary of the tea party. There were forums on civil liberties, an 18th-century concert, street fairs, patriotic gatherings, and both blueblood and popular balls.

The dumping of the tea it-

self was re-enacted three times this afternoon—by the Disabled American Veterans, by the official city representatives and by the radicals.

The militia companies of Concord and Lexington, in Colonial regalia, walked out of the ceremonies because of the demonstration.

## The Original Protest

Today's ceremonies were to commemorate the dumping of tea from three ships in Boston harbor by an angry mob. The incident was the breaking point between Britain and the Colonies and marked the beginning of the Revolution.

The tea had been taxed by Lord North's government primarily for the benefit of the British East India Company, whose investors numbered much of the Parliament, and as a means of continuing to assert control over the colonists, who had already struggled against the Townsend and Stamp Acts.

The Sons of Liberty demanded that the tea be sent back to England, but Gov. Thomas Hutchinson refused. And as angered patriots gathered at the Old South Church, Sam Adams, the firebrand organizer, cried: "This meeting can do nothing more to save the country."

War whoops broke out. The streets were filled with patriots, loosely disguised by blankets and soot-streaked faces as "Mohawks," and the tea was thrown into the harbor.

When Boston 200, the city's official bicentennial group, prepared for the re-enactment they were faced with a number of 20th-century problems.

First, the Boston Indian Council protested that they

were tired of Indians being portrayed as "savage beasts," so it was agreed that there would be no Indian disguises. The Sierra Club objected to further pollution of the harbor, so it was agreed that only empty boxes tied to ropes would be used. The Disabled American Veterans descended on City Hall asserting that each year they had re-enacted the ceremony dressed as Indians, they were given time to do so before the official event.

The major thrust, however, came from the People's Bicentennial Commission, a Washington-based radical group seeking to use the bicentennial as a means of returning the country to its "revolutionary roots." The group had already caused embarrassment on the Administration's plans for the Bicentennial with an exposé of its commercial tie-ins.

## Financed by Grant

At noon, historic Fanueil Hall was jammed with a People's Bicentennial-sponsored meeting calling for the impeachment of the President and a crowd of 500, rapidly growing, gathered outside.

At City Hall, Mayor Kevin White was host at a brunch for visiting dignitaries, including descendants of the revolutionaries. So many came that the food ran out. Mayor White greeted them with a speech about "the diversity of the city" that, one side noted, was "to prepare them for what they will see."

At the dock, a reproduction of the 18th-century brig, the Beaver 2, was tied up at a new gift shop. The ship, a plaque notes, was financed by a grant

from the Salada Foods Corporation, the tea maker.

The original Griffin's Wharf site is occupied by the headquarters of the Sheraton Hotel Corporation, a subsidiary of the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation.

In one of the themes struck throughout the demonstration, Jeremy Rifkin, the People's Bicentennial organizer, contended that I.T.T. had a relationship with the Administration not unlike that of the East India Company with Britain two centuries ago.

The demonstrators marched down to the docks, filling Congress Street for blocks. They swarmed over the bridge and nearby piers bearing banners supporting grape strikers and Greek students and denouncing the coup in Chile, the war in Vietnam and alleged profiteering by the oil companies.

"Sam Adams—live like him," read one poster. The rails of the bridge and surrounding buildings were draped with banners reading "Freeze pro-for impeachment."

The demonstrators blended

## of Boston Tea Party

curiously with the city re-enactment, which included people dressed in Colonial garb roaming through the crowd decrying taxes and distributing reproductions of Revolutionary handbills.

"Down with King George," shouted one of the city's pamphleteers.

"Down with King Richard," the crowd shouted back.

City officials were taken

aback by the thousands of demonstrators and hurried through their re-enactment with several actors and members of the Charlestown Militia Company. The company is one of a number of social groups in the area who dress up for historical pageants. Several spoke afterward of the "diversity" of their celebration.