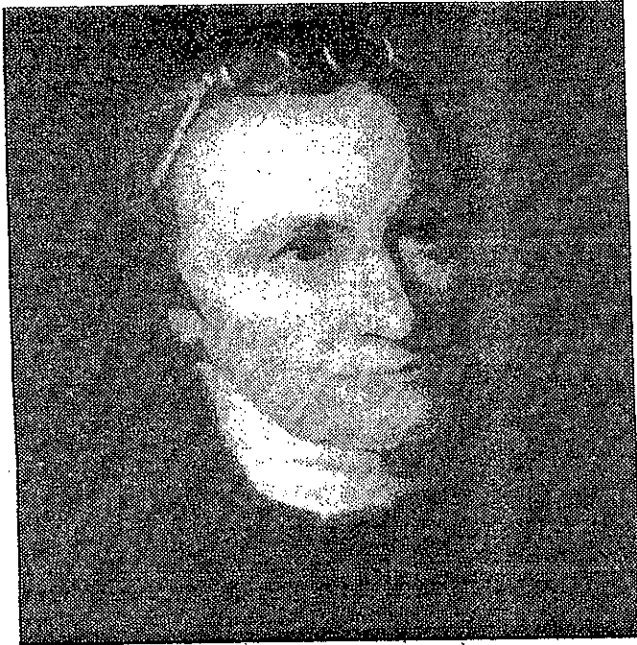


You Said It, Patrick



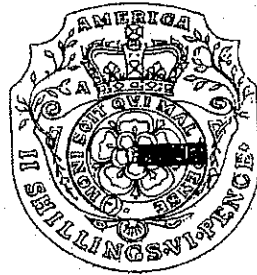
A portrait of Patrick Henry shows his glasses on his head. When making his speeches, he would start out slowly, sometimes reading his notes. When he came to the stirring parts, he would push up his glasses on his head and look into the audience.

On July Fourth, we Americans celebrate our country's birthday. It was on that day in 1776 that delegates meeting in Philadelphia ratified, or agreed to, the Declaration of Independence.



Thomas Jefferson, the writer of the Declaration, once remarked that it would be hard to say what our country would have done without Patrick Henry.

The Stamp Act



In 1765, the British Parliament ruled that Colonists in America had to buy a stamp for playing cards, legal papers and newspapers, and other items. The money raised from the Stamp Act was to be used to support British troops stationed on American soil.

"If this be treason ..."

In 1765, Patrick Henry had been elected to serve in the Virginia House of Burgesses, one part of the legislature that made laws for the Colony.

He proposed that the members adopt resolutions against the stamp tax. As Henry spoke out against the English king, the Speaker yelled out, "Treason!"

Henry's bold reply was, "If this be treason, make the most of it." He was going to speak out against the tax no matter what. Other Colonies soon passed resolutions against it, too.

