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WHEREAS, January 29 is the anniversary of the birth of Tom Paine, whose pamphlet Common Sense sparked the American colonies to declare their independence from the tyrannical reign of King George III nearly 200 years ago; and

WHEREAS, as we approach the Bicentennial of the Declaration of Independence and the birth of our nation, we find ourselves in one of the most critical periods in the history of the United States; and

WHEREAS, each of us, as American citizens, can find political, moral, and spiritual guidance in the words and deeds of the men and women who founded and built this country:

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that this City Council endorses and commends to the citizens of Cambridge and to the American people, as an appropriate commentary on our present state of affairs on the eve of President Nixon's State of the Union message, the following condensation of Tom Paine's Common Sense, as presented by Steve Nelson of this city in Faneuil Hall and on the streets of Boston and Cambridge during the 200th anniversary observances of The Boston Tea Party, Dec. 16, 1773-1973:

"The present state of America is truly alarming, is without a precedent. The property of no man is secure. I mean to awaken us from fatal slumber. I offer nothing more than simple facts and common sense.

"Why is the Constitution sickly, but because monarchy hath poisoned the Republic. The Almighty expressly disapproves of government by Kings. Boston will teach us wisdom, and instruct us for ever to renounce a power in whom we can have no trust.

"He hath shewn himself an inveterate enemy to liberty, discovered a thirst for arbitrary power, trampled nature and conscience beneath his feet. The blood of the slain, the weeping voice of nature cries, 'TIS TIME TO PART.

"Every quiet method for peace hath been ineffectual. Nothing confirms obstinacy in Kings more than repeated petitioning. For God's sake, let us come to a final separation.

"Courage hath never yet forsaken us. Why is it that we hesitate? Let us learn wisdom, and lay hold of the present opportunity to form the noblest purest Constitution on the face of the earth.

"Let us unite. The cause of America is the cause of all mankind. The sun never shined on a cause of greater worth.

"O ye that love mankind! Ye that dare oppose, not only the tyranny, but the tyrant, stand forth! The birthday of a new world is at hand."

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A

Steve Nelson
854 MASS. AVE.

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Resolution on the birthday of Tom Paine.

In City Council,

January 28, 1974