SONG: “Oh, Do You Remember Sweet Benjamin Franklin”

(sung to the tune of “Sweet Betsy from Pike”)

1

Oh, do you remember sweet Benjamin Franklin.

Who taught us to think and to fight for our skins.

With words and with thoughts to make people think.

He believed we could all live together and still wink!

2

The colonists they shunned private money of banks.

They remembered from Europe their dastardly pranks.

So starting with Massachusetts in the year sixteen nine-tee.

Paper monies were issued by the legislature with no fee.

3

The colonial money did flow round and round.

And farmers produced for themselves and for town.

Then industry and commerce took the honey and milk.

And the colonists prospered and some even wore silk.

4

Old Ben he spread public money systems around.

He went from Massachusetts to Pennsylvania’s largest town.

The legislature issued paper money to build.

Markets, buildings, roads, so the farmers could till.

5

Well, the powerful Bank of England was very upset.

The Bank wanted its private money to earn interest, you bet.

But public money from colonies did not fit their bill,

So the Parliament put a stop to this poisonous pill.

6

What could the colonies do with no public money till?

But be poor and a slave to the British who kill.

So up went the cry to kick out the damn Brits.

And the first Revolutionary Congress issued colonial script.

7

As the monetary reformer Alexander Del Mar,

Said with great erudition about the colonists’ war.

“The colonial money was not reckless,” he wrote.

“But their money was the damn Revolution” was the quote.

8

So the British soldiers marched over the fields.

To put colonial people hard under their heels.

The British were the greatest power around.

But the colonies had public continentals, and not British pounds.

9

Old Ben told the British the colonies won clean.

Since their paper money was a wondrous machine.

The British could not understand how it worked,

Since there was no gold and silver, but only a “fake”.

10

But money from public authority.

Backed by the labor of all makes us free.

It brings prosperity to all who work hard.

And keeps private bankers in their own private yard.

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