

## **8th United States Congress - Stephen R. Bradley**

### **Topic 1: Barbary Wars**

America is a very new country, because of this need to realize that the decisions we are making will affect our country for years to come. When discussing what to do about the piracy going on in the Mediterranean and our relations with Tripoli we need to decide as a congress what the best option is. It has been said by President Thomas Jefferson that we can either give these countries a settlement or we can go to war, the issue here is that as a fairly new country, we are not established enough to be able to spend money on this issue. However we also do not have an established navy, but we will in coming years as our navy is beginning to be developed. It is decided that war is cheaper than a settlement and it will also leave us with an existing army that we can grow, but this war might result in our countries economy worsening. With these factors in mind, we must decide whether we need to continue in our war efforts but we also must remember that we are a new nation who needs to show the world that we are powerful and that we will be dominant in years to come.

### **Topic 2: Federal Judiciary System**

As a member of the Senate during the time of the Marbury vs Madison decision, I have come to realize the importance of our government structure. If the issues presented in this case were not brought up when they were, it could have resulted in a different government style, fortunately, these issues were presented and we have been able to establish a three-branch system of government. As we as congress start to discuss the results of this case, we may ask ourselves if the principle of judicial review is necessary. I myself believe that the acts of checks and balances and judicial review are an important asset to our government system as it allows the government, to assert authority over the laws of our land. The Judiciary Act of

1801 was put in place for good reason but was not constructed to benefit the country but to specifically benefit the Federalists. As a part of the Democrat Republican party I saw the mistakes that were made when this act was put together and i personally believe that we should scrap the act all together and create a new, unified act that will benefit both my party as well as the federalist. As a congress, we need to decide how big of a role this act will play in the workings of our government.

### **Topic 3: The Louisiana Purchase**

As it stands now, there has been no decision made on whether our country will make a deal with the French and purchase the Louisiana territory, however if we do come to a rational decision on the matter it will be very complex. Not only will the purchase double the size of our country but it will set us up to be seen by the world as a powerful and hopefully intimidating country. The American people are naturally full of pride and love for their country, which is understandable considering we build this country from nothing, therefore it is just for us as Americans to believe that we can continue to expand our landholdings and prosper as the already large country we are. Although we do have the people to expand our country into this territory, there would be some drawbacks if we were to go through with the purchase. This territory has had issues regarding slaves, there has been word of uprisings which would not fit well with some of our countries people including my home of Vermont who has already abolished slavery but it might pose a threat to the southern states as they do depend on slavery for economic reasons. If we do decide to purchase the Louisiana territory we will have to enact a strict set of laws that ensure there will be no problems with slaves uprising.