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1803 United States Congress

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Doctrines Espoused by Uriah Tracy

Part One - On The Louisiana Purchase

Echoing sentiments espoused by prominent Federalist congress people such as Samuel White of Delaware, James Jackson of Georgia ("Senate Approves"), and Roger Griswold of Connecticut (Theriault); Uriah Tracy vehemently opposes the purchase of the Louisiana territory. As did many of his Federalist colleagues ("Senate Approves"), Uriah Tracy regards The United States Constitution's lack of explicit sanction for the purchase of territory from sovereign states as rendering the purchase unconstitutional; advocating that the matter be referred to the United States Supreme Court.

In addition to constitutional concerns, Uriah Tracy contends that the addition of western territories, the majority of which will likely prove Democratic Republican, will further polarize the industrial, Federalist north and agrarian, Antifederalist south; the resultant contention of which, Tracy asserts, will ultimately rupture the fragile union. In private correspondence to Secretary of War James McHenry, Tracy articulates this sentiment as follows; "I am convinced that the ascension of Louisiana will accelerate the division of these states" (Unger). Moreover, Uriah Tracy fears that the addition of western territories to the Union will undermine the political hegemony held by New England; an anxiety which, as of the committees commencement has manifested itself

in his assumption of a leadership role in the burgeoning New England secessionist movement. (Livingston) While not earnestly desiring a sovereign New England, Tracy intends to utilize the threat of secession to compel concessions of influence to northern states.

Part Two - On The Mechanisms of the Judiciary

In accordance with larger, Federalist doctrine concerning the ideal station of the judiciary as asserted in Alexander Hamilton's "Federalist Paper #78" (Hamilton); Uriah Tracy regard the presence of a judicial body imbued with the ability to conduct judicial review as not only constitutional, but imperative to the preservation of American democracy. As credence for this assertion, Tracy cites the inherent obligation of The United States furnish its subjects with legal remedy for abridgements of constitutional entitlements; an obligation that's consistent satisfaction demands the presence of such a body. In an oration delivered to congress, Uriah Tracy characterizes this obligation as follows; "What security is there to an individual, if the legislature of the union or of any particular state should pass [an unconstitutional] law?... None in the world but by an appeal to the judiciary of The United States... or by a resort to revolutionary principles and inciting a civil war." (Kramer 138) Given the hitherto noted consideration, Uriah Tracy commends the actions of John Marshall in resolving Marbury vs Madison, and opposes vehemently the repeal of 1801's Judiciary act.

On the Resolution of North African, Maritime Antagonism

On the matter of Tripolitanian antagonism of American merchant vessels, Uriah Tracy advocates the continuation of naval operations in the mediterranean initiated by Thomas Jefferson in 1802. ("Barbary War") Despite purporting to adhere to an anti interventionist ideology, Tracy asserts that the precedent established by Jefferson's ongoing intervention necessitates further military action so as to affirm to the international community at large the potence of American agency.

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