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The United States presently finds itself at a critical juncture. We, the elected officials, are faced with hard choices about the direction of our country: do we want a freer, more individualistic society, or do we want a society shackled by an overbearing federal government. I believe, and I think the American people believe, that the former is the path to ensuring the United States continues its rapid development and growth as a nation. We are faced with three key issues that will determine how we proceed as nation: whether we should complete the Louisiana Purchase, how we should conduct the Barbary War, and the role of the federal judiciary.

We are a great nation, founded on great principles. However, we risk everything if we continue to allow Europeans to dominate our land, North America. We have an unprecedented opportunity to take control of the west, and we must take it. The French position as of present is weak. They lost many soldiers in Saint Domingue and they care more about their European conquests than those in the West. We must use this to our advantage to purchase the Louisiana territory from them. Moreover, the purchase of the Louisiana territory satisfies much more than territorial ambitions — it is once in a generation economic opportunity. We have the chance to expand the resource capacity of our country, as the Louisiana territory is rich with gold, silver, lumber, and fur. Furthermore, the region is extremely good for farming and control of it would establish necessary and strategically important trade and transportation routes. However, I also recognize

the issues that come with purchasing this territory; namely, we need to determine how to deal with slavery in that region. I stand against the peculiar institution, firmly. But, I also understand that decisions with implications as profound as those regarding slavery should be handled by the individual states themselves. The people of the Louisiana territory should decide whether or not they want slavery — not legislators in Washington.

The economic opportunities for our country extend well beyond North America — we also have significant trade interests in Europe. Thus we cannot allow the piracy of the Barbary States to continue. What is less clear, however, is how we deal with this complex issue. It is my belief that we should attempt to use force in order to resolve the issue. The reasons for this are two fold: we need to establish ourselves as an international power, and the current demands of the Pasha are unreasonable. First, as a budding power it is important to assert ourselves on the world stage. We need to show the French, British, and Spanish that we are not be taken lightly. We will vigorously defend our interests and protect all of our citizens. Abiding by this is especially important given that the Pasha has declared war on us and directly threatened our country. Second, the Pasha is asking us to make payments that we cannot afford. In executing a blockage against the Tripolians and attacking their ships we can force them either to surrender completely or concede to a vast majority of our demands. That being said, we cannot allow President Jefferson to have an unlimited budget — we must ensure our fight for limited government extends beyond our shores as well.

Finally, even more important than expanding our territory and establishing ourselves as a global power is protecting our democracy. We cannot and will not accept an activist judiciary that legislates from the federal bench. Democracy is meant to be a citizen government that is of the people, by the people, and for the people — not the Washington elites. That means we need to repeal the Judiciary Act and establish that the people are the ultimate arbiters of the constitution. Meaning that one branch of government cannot rule the decisions of another branch unconstitutional — only the people have that power. Thus, the concept of Judicial Review must be rejected. Moreover, more power needs to be concentrated in state courts. It is wrong to say that all cases involving the Constitution should be federal. If the Constitution applies to all states, all state courts ought to have the opportunity to interpret it.

To conclude, we must complete the Louisiana Purchase, we must authorize President Jefferson's war declaration, and we must scale back the power of the federal judiciary. As our motto states, *E pluribus unum*: out of many one. In our fight to create a more perfect union, we must not forget that we are, indeed, many — many religions, many backgrounds, and many different types of people. It is for this reason that, while I understand centralization is necessary to an extent, we must allow states to have power — it is the only way to ensure democracy.