**Position Paper for the 8th Congress of the United States**

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**Topic 1: Barbary Wars**

As a member of this Congress, myself, and my fellow members of the Democratic-Republican Party strongly believe that we should not pay the tribute being asked by the Barbary States and should instead go to war. As a young nation, we should be wary of our finances and cannot continue to use our funds to pay this tribute and protect our ships in the Mediterranean Sea.

Force is the only option available to us at this time, as we cannot continue to have our ships harassed by these pirates. Despite having existing treaties with each of the four Barbary States, numerous American ships have been captured and some of their crewmembers have been taken prisoner and held for ransom (Huff, 2012). The States of Morocco and Algiers have both captured some of our ships in the Mediterranean and we cannot afford to continue to pay the ransoms of our captured crews (Huff, 2012). Furthermore, we must think of the people of this country and the cost of continuing to give the Barbary States their tributes. The American people have cried out “Millions for defense but not one cent for tribute.” (Kennedy, 2015). In order to deal with this piracy problem, we must act in a timely manner and establish a navy.

Should this Congress decide to go to war, it is vital that the United States has a naval presence along the coast of Northern Africa. It is essential that our priority is to protect United States’ ships from any potential threats; however, we must also assess the size of the navy needed to deal with the Barbary States (Kennedy, 2015). There is no need to create and expand our navy to a size that would force our government to spend more money than needed to deal with the existing threat. Though the Barbary States must be stopped, this Congress should also be wary of placing American lives in danger. Since these pirate settlements are relatively close to shore, perhaps using long-range weapons such as cannons and other forms of artillery would be the best option. By keeping our sailors away from direct contact with the pirates on land, the potential causalities will be greatly reduced. This tactic would also help to prevent our country from the costs of a full war with the United States. As there would be no need to spend resources to aid a war on land, this Congress would save the country money should we come to the conclusion that a naval war would be the best option in regards to dealing with the Barbary States.

**Topic 2: Federal Judiciary System**

This Congress must come to the conclusion that the Judiciary Act of 1801 should most certainly be abolished and that the federal government should not be heavily involved in the country’s legal system.

As the Judiciary Act of 1801 was a last-minute effort to establish a Federalist presence in one of the three executive branches of government, this act should most definitely be scrapped (Kennedy, 2015). The main reason for this pertains to the matter of reducing government influence of the legal system (Urofsky, 2016). Due to the fact that the prosecutors of this country represent the government when they go to court, there should be little to no connection between the judicial system and the government. Should there be such a connection, the people may come to the conclusion that the courts are not impartial – which is a fundamental principle of a court of law – and may begin to lose faith in the country’s legal system. The only aspect in which the government should be involved in the legal system is through the system of checks and balances (Urofsky, 2016). The influence of the legislative and executive branches on the judiciary should be minimal, however, in our country, it is constitutional for the two branches to ensure that the judiciary does not overstep its boundaries. With separation of powers being a fundamental aspect of our democracy, each branch of government should be responsible for deciding questions in regard to constitutionality. The people of the United States are the ultimate arbiter of the Constitution. As the people elect representatives in each branch of government, it is then the responsibility of each of those branches to decide the constitutionality of the question being asked (Family Guardian, 2009).

**Topic 3: Louisiana Purchase**

Regarding the purchase of the Louisiana Territory, I believe that it is in the best interests of the United States of America to acquire this land. This territory holds great promise and the make-up of our economy would allow for our country to become even more prosperous.

In my opinion, the offer made for the land should be one that the French would deem acceptable, yet we should be wary of the fact that we do not overpay for the land. In regards to this, we should also consider the potential economic value of the land. It would not be unreasonable to assume that the profits made from the land could be used to help pay for the original purchase in the future (Kennedy, 2015). For governing this territory, I believe the federal government should be responsible for the Louisiana Territory until a state government has been established in the area. This area also has several potential economic benefits for the United States. With this territory, we would be able to expand industries such as cotton and tobacco, as well as the fur trade. To uncover and observe the parts of this vast continent that we know hardly anything about, we should organize a group of experts in their respective fields to explore the rest of the continent. This group of experts should consist of experts in different cultures, experts on geography, and those needed to help with the transportation of supplies. Those apart of the group of experts on different cultures should have knowledge of the dialects and cultures of native groups and other colonies beyond the Mississippi River (Kennedy, 2016). Continuing, those experts in the field of geography should either be familiar with different soil types and landforms or should have navigation skills. This will help our government document what is beyond the Mississippi River, and to discover important factors such as what areas are good for farmland and where would be suitable locations to establish towns (Kennedy, 2016). The final group is the outstanding members, who would mostly consist of those with the physical skill to help bring the required materials for the group on this journey.

**Works Cited**

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