**8th Congress – James Hillhouse**

**Barbary War**

As a Senator of the United States in the 8th congress, I do not believe that engaging in war is the prominent solution to this on-going conflict with the Barbary States. The reality may be that Jefferson is underestimating the cost of this war and therefore we should continue to negotiate peace treaties with the North African city-states.

I am well concerned about the economic toll that this war will take on our young nation. Although our growth in economy in the past few decades is to be commended, we are nowhere near the state of stability. Therefore, it is important for the congress to consider the great consequences of this financial risk. It is substantial for us to manage our funds wisely and effectively, as the money can be subsidize into communal development within our lands instead of oversea affairs. I’d like to advise the congress that the war method has been tried and abandoned by the European nations. In addition, the congress should note that the European nations have a more powerful military in comparison to the United States.

On the contrary, I recognize that Jefferson is strongly favorable of the declaration of war against the Barbary Coast. It is evident that the escalating aggression from the Northern African states hinders our trading networks. The congress has previously authorized 80,000 dollars in peace negotiations and attempted to implement treaties with the four city state nations. These efforts have failed and it is urgent for the congress to address Tripoli’s declaration of war. These nations’ economies are solely dependent on their corsairs, especially the three Ottoman Regencies of Algiers, Tunis, and Tripoli. I fear that the nations would turn against the established agreements to suit their subjective interest- they could raise the tribute as they please. These arbitrary acts could potentially cause further trouble for the United States in the future. However, at this stage, it is uncertain that paying tribute would outweigh the cost of war. If congress does decide on war, it is strongly advised that we keep the efforts at a minimum.

**Judiciary System**

I oppose the repeal of the Judiciary Act of 1801, because as a federalist, I believe that the federal government should have an expansive judiciary branch. Having a large and balanced government is our nation’s first line of defense against opposing countries. I am whole-heartedly in support of the principal of judicial review. The ability of the Supreme Court to declare legislation unconstitutional is vital for the regulation of a balanced system. The constitution shapes our nation’s identity and it should act as a guideline to which the government adheres.

**Louisiana Purchase**

I am in support of the Louisiana Purchase, because it is socioeconomically beneficial to the United States. I’d like to propose an offering of fifteen million dollars for the Louisiana Territory. The acquirement of New Orleans will mark a milestone in our nation’s development. The United States would be permitted full access to the Mississippi River, allowing the transportation of goods and maximizing our revenue. Under the royal Spanish orders, Morales has violated the Pinckney’s treaty by renouncing the United States’ tax-free access to the port. This leaves many of our produce and goods exposed to thieves and other elements.

A high percentage of our economy is based on trades with the Native Americans who inhabit this land. Thus the purchase would help to strengthen the extensive trading network in order to out-compete the European Nations. There is an abundance of natural resources in the Louisiana territory, including lumber, tar and pitch. These materials may be utilized in construction, manufacturing and our military. Minerals and ores like gold, silver and iron are found in this land, which increases its value. I believe that the investment is absolutely essential, as the proceeds will surpass the initial funds promptly. The idea of Manifest Destiny is gaining popularity and by expanding our nation’s territory, we are one step closer to uniting America. The purchase would double the size of our country and much of this land can be cultivated into agricultural use. In conclusion, the expansion of territory would promise immense wealth for our nation.

The Louisiana Territory should be divided based on the backgrounds of the inhabitants and the available resources in each region to prevent hostility within the states.

With the promise of opportunities and fortune comes an eminent issue that the congress must address. We need to acknowledge that the economy of the Louisiana Territory will be heavily dependent on agriculture and mining, both of which will require tremendous labour. I understand that the slave trade is highly profitable especially in the southern states, due to easy attainability and labour- intensive industries. Nevertheless, I strongly oppose the idea of slavery as I consider it as an evil. I believe that slavery of all kinds –including the “peculiar institution” and the Native American slavery- should be condemned and abolished throughout the entirety of United States. We should revoke the Spanish law of banning the slavery of the indigenous peoples in attempt to reconcile, and to form a positive bond. It is crucial for the congress to note that the system of slavery is in conflict with the central ideal of democracy; that “all men are born free and equal”. It is against my conscience to permit slavery in the Louisiana Territories. I hereby state my sentiment, that by no means should our nation rely on human exploitation as a source of our economy. I believe that even though slavery may result in a short-term economic profit for few, it will not benefit the population of the United States as a whole. In fact, I view it as a hindrance to our national development.

In 1803, Hillhouse and several other New England politicians proposed secession of New England from the union due to growing influence of Jeffersonian democrats and the[Louisiana Purchase](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louisiana_Purchase) which they felt would further diminish Northern influence. Hillhouse was elected a member of the American Antiquarian Society in 1813.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Hillhouse#cite_note-4)