**Special Assembly: 8th Congress**

**Wade Hampton I, SC: Position Paper**

**Karrie Chou**

**University of Toronto Schools**

I, Wade Hampton, am one of 8 representatives at the 8th Congressional Session of 1803 from South Carolina. As my Democratic-Republican party affiliation suggests, I support the majority of President Thomas Jefferson’s views on the state of the young United Sates. My primary concerns lie with the need to improve America on an economic basis, so that the country will have a stronger fiscal foundation from which to leap into the global spotlight. As such, I believe that President Jefferson’s actions towards the North African pirates – namely, physical confrontation – are made with good intentions and are the best way to proceed. I am a proponent of judiciary reform to restore state sovereignty to smaller court cases, especially those of a criminal nature. I also strongly support the undertaking of the Louisiana Purchase, believing it to be a viable way to improve America’s financial status and push its reputation as an emerging power on a global level.

**Topic 001: Barbary Wars**

As a former commander in the War of 1812, I consider myself to be relatively experienced in comparison to the other attendees in terms of military service. I am indeed sensitive to the conflict rising between the North African pirates and American ships, and support Jefferson’s intentions to physically confront the pirates rather than pay the tribute price to sail safely through the region that was being occupied. It is known that the pirates are extorting money from Sweden due to the tribute agreement between the two parties. If America were to follow the same path and choose to pay the pirates to cross safely, it would not be able to survive economically for very long. Although an all-out war is also very expensive, especially for a country such as America that emerged defeated from the recent War of 1812, I strongly believe that it is an effective, long-lasting solution that is more economically viable and efficient than paying tribute to the pirates for safe travel across the Atlantic Ocean.

Because America is so young, the amount of money that circulates through the country’s economy is very little compared to the likes of ancient empires such as Great Britain, France, or even Spain. In fact, many necessities and commodities, such as clothing and sugar, still come from trading with Europe and the West Indies. The country does not have the fiscal allowance to risk extortion by the pirates just as Sweden has. Such a result would destroy the social and economic foundations that we, as a people, have worked so hard to build our young nation upon.

The money that would have originally been used for tribute and treaty purposes would be better put to use if invested in our own country’s infrastructure, rather than our international problems. It could be used for upgrading buildings and sea ports to accommodate more units, for funding public services such as the post, and even for other decisions to be made within this committee such as judicial reform and the proposed Louisiana Purchase.

In addition to saving resources to be used for better alternative means, direct physical confrontation of the pirates adds a layer of deterrence to fighting Americans. A portion of the money that is not used in tribute can go towards improving the American military and navy, both of which have severe flaws that undermine their efficiency and quality. By investing in the military and navy, we will have a hope of successfully confronting the pirates and preventing them from harming innocent American citizens in the future. It is clear that the country is better suited to fighting against the North African pirates than to pay tribute and risk financial insecurity on a national level.

**Topic 002: Federal Judiciary System**

The three-branch system of government – a division of powers among judicial, legislative, and executive sectors – is a necessary step in reforming the judiciary system to better suit our needs in the future. Having specific duties go to specific branches of government will establish a set of checks and balances that ensures every section is neither overwhelmed nor holding too much power over the nation. The addition of the decision of *Marbury v. Madison (1803)* also enhances this system of checks and balances by ensuring that the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) does not devolve into a near-tyrannical force that we escaped when America separated from Great Britain.

The specific details of the judiciary branch, outlined in the Judiciary Act of 1801, also positively impacts this system of checks and balances that makes up the American judiciary system. Its inclusion of standard procedures for trials clearly define the physical aspects of the judiciary system, thus minimizing confusion as to how various cases should proceed.

However, what is missing from these legislations and past rulings is a clear idea of the courts’ objective. Although the steps taken to initiate judiciary reform thus far have indeed been beneficial in establishing procedures and clearly defining the jurisdiction of each branch of government, they do not successfully create an even division between federal and state jurisdiction. It is important to create such a division, as lending too much power to the federal courts will result in individual states not being able to conduct their own affairs. The reformation of the judicial system needs to consider such parameters in order to be successful for many years to come.

By revising the Judicial Act of 1801 and restoring some measure of power to state courts, America can aspire to return to a more democratic state of being. The federal government is much too distant to give proper rulings in many smaller cases, becoming less accountable when it receives even more jurisdiction. The people who serve as part of the federal government are seen by the general public as individuals who have removed themselves from society and have raised their status by doing so. They do not represent, on any level, the public’s interests, and thus cannot reflect the popular beliefs of the majority of the country which is made up of families with agricultural backgrounds.

It is evident that restoring power and jurisdiction over less significant court cases to state governments will be nothing but beneficial. State governments are closer to the individuals who are being put on trial, and allow for more input from the public on the outcome of such cases. They are better representatives of the people’s wants and needs, leading this proposal as a whole to wholeheartedly support the concept of a democracy that America was founded upon.

**Topic 003: Louisiana Purchase**

Because America is such a young country, it has not reached its full potential in economic terms. If we as a country want to become a powerhouse in this new century, we must look to ways to boost our economic growth so that we can have access to the resources needed to impact the new world in a meaningful way.

The Louisiana territory, currently owned by the French, is a prospect worth examining and possibly even bargaining for. The land to the west of what is currently America’s borders contains immeasurable amounts of gold, silver, and (most obviously) land – all of which are resources that will aid in furthering America’s expansion and improving the country’s prestige on a global scale. The Mississippi river that flows through the territory can provide fertile soil on which to establish new plantations and build settlements. The Natives that are currently living in the territory and the port of New Orleans can become accessible for various commercial relationships such as trading. The benefits of owning the Louisiana territory, of claiming it for American soil, far outnumber the costs of doing so.

In addition to these direct benefits that will arise from the purchase of the Louisiana territory, there is also one intangible political advantage to doing so. If the Louisiana territory is purchased from the French, the country’s area will be more than doubled. As a result, America can finally begin to fulfill its foreign policy based on the “manifest destiny” – the idea that one day, America will own all of the land from the Pacific coast to the Atlantic coast. The purchase of the Louisiana territory will be the beginning of a new era in American history, an era when economic growth will be at its height and the country will finally begin to receive the prestige that it has deserved for over forty years.

However, it is important to plan out the specifics of how this proposed Louisiana purchase will be conducted. There must be an expedition who will scout the territory and report just how useful and profitable the land is, and the question of who will rule over this land once it falls into American hands must be answered.

**Bibliography:**

Benson, Sonia, et al. *Democratic-Republican Party*. UXL Encyclopedia of U.S. History, Volume 2 (n.d.). <http://ic.galegroup.com/ic/uhic/ReferenceDetailsPage/DocumentToolsPortletWindow?displayGroupName=Reference&jsid=27c4d7c605ee78f96be9be874b8f557c&action=2&catId=&documentId=GALE%7CCX3048900171&u=oak30216&zid=9c00b8eb644b4e46de39f8a9335adc67> (retrieved November 4 2016).

Cauthern, Charles Edward, ed. *Family Letters of the Three Wade Hamptons, 1782-1901*. South Carolina Sesquicentennial Series, No. 4. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1953 (retrieved November 4, 2016).

Federal Judicial Center. *The Sedition Act Trials – Historical Background and Documents*. History of the Federal Judiciary (n.d.). <http://www.fjc.gov/history/home.nsf/page/tu_sedbio_fr.html> (retrieved November 4, 2016).

Rodrigue, Dr. Jean-Paul. *Colonial Trade Pattern, North Atlantic, 18th Century*. The Geography of Transport Systems, 1998. <https://people.hofstra.edu/geotrans/eng/ch2en/conc2en/tradewinds.html> (retrieved November 4, 2016).