**Committee:** 8th United States Congress

**Representative:** Samuel W. Dana

**Delegate:** Kev Marleau

There comes a time in the lives of all nations where practicality must precede notions of prestige and principle. Our fledgling Nation, a republic founded upon the precepts of reason, demands that we are reasonable in our funding and in our affairs with foreign nations. We must not become engrossed in a war without function or frugality simply because we feel it is a matter of honor to do so. War against the Berber nations serves only to drain our purses. There simply is no sense in paying large sums of money to wage war against a nation when one tenth of that price may be spent to accomplish the same goals; namely, ensuring the safety of our Nation’s economic interests abroad. Rather than continuing to fight this costly war, I suggest that we seek a diplomatic solution to the problem of piracy by the Berber nations until we are able to acquire a Navy capable enough of securing a decisive victory over our enemies; although it does not please me to consider paying tribute to the Berber thieves, the money saved by choosing tribute over conflict will allow us to build a more formidable navy. For now, we stand to lose much and gain little.

The principle of judicial review in the United States is both well-established and essential to the proper functioning of a just society. The principle is put forth clearly and eloquently in the Federalist Paper No. 78. Without it, there is no safeguard for the rights of the people or the nation. The legislatures of neither the individual states nor the federal government can be trusted to adhere strictly to the Constitution. To argue against this right of the Supreme Court is to argue against one of the founding principles of our Nation.

I oppose the purchase of the Louisiana territory on these grounds:

First, and most importantly, there is no right given to the President of the United States to either purchase territory nor enter it into the Union. It is curious to see Thomas Jefferson, who was previously a fierce defender of a strict interpretation of the Constitution, assert for his position as President of the United States a power which is in no place granted to it under the Constitution. Such a practice is not fitting for a country ruled by law.

Second, the purchase of the Louisiana territory would come with significant monetary and social costs. Such a purchase would most certainly thrust our country into debt. The price of the territory will inevitably come out of the pockets of our citizens, most of whom will see no direct benefit from the acquisition of territories in the West. Indeed, many would be harmed; the Mississippi river would likely steer trade away from citizens in the New England colonies, fostering a divide between the Eastern and Western portions of our Nation. The social character of our Nation will be further impacted by the inclusion of the French and Spanish settlers already present in the region.

The United States will have possibilities to expand in the future should the need arise; for now, we must be content with what providence has given us. Restrictions on Mississippi trade can be dealt with diplomatically, or if need be, with force; it will in any case be constitutional.