***Delegate*  *Represented by***

**Benjamin Tallmadge CT John Abbott College**

**United States 8th Congress**

*28 years ago, I had the honour of organizing the Culper spy ring while fighting for the freedom of these great United States of America.* Today, I look forward to using my expertise to help mould the future of this great nation. The Louisiana Purchase must be completed swiftly, a pending war with the Barbary States must be addressed tactfully and intelligently, and we must determine the best way that this government can work for the American people.

*I am very familiar, as a land speculator and president of the Phoenix Branch Bank, with the rise and fall of land values. Believe me when I say that the United States Congress would be foolish to neglect seeing the purchase of the Louisiana territory through.* The 530 million acre1 territory of Louisiana represents not only a commercial port which could help America diversify its trades beyond Europe, but an ideal opportunity for American investors to expand their business ventures and generate capital for this great nation. As such, following the negotiation of a price for the purchase of Louisiana that is fair and just for both America and France, the priority should be on passing legislation which will facilitate and expedite the settling of the land by any means necessary. Moreover, as much as I find the perpetuation of slavery to be regrettable and abhorrent, its use may be unavoidable in the new territory, at least at the start, when manual labor will be in short supply. In addition, it would be prudent for Congress to approve a budget for sending exploratory expeditions to traverse the new territory and establish friendly relations with the native tribes, as these connections could benefit America’s businesses greatly in the future, and help them to compete with neighbouring nations.

*With regards to the United States’ relations with the Barbary States, it is my position that this nation should avoid the continuation of a war, and instead seek more peaceful resolutions.* As a man with experience serving in the military, I do not speak of war lightly. Wars have the capacity to devastate nations in a single blow, and leave both parties bereft of a strong workforce regardless of who wins. Moreover, we are already spending 2.1 million dollars on defence2, and a war would occupy still more capital and manpower, resources which could instead be used for expansion. Nonetheless, at times war is unavoidable. Trade with Europe is at the heart of America’s economy, and it must be protected. It would be wise to continue building a small but powerful navy for America, in case negotiations with the Barbary States fail. It is as our nation’s great founder George Washington said: “Real men despise battle, but will never run from it”.3

As a devoted federalist, I support a more centralized government in Washington to serve the American people more effectively, and it is my firm belief that the Judiciary Act of 1801 should be upheld. While states’ individual governments may have conflicting interests and values, it is the duty of the centralized government to offer order and unity through strength. As such, if we thrust too much power upon state governments, we will be disturbing this balance, risking discord and chaos. The 1801 judiciary act is henceforth a step in the right direction towards a more stable and united nation.

*delegate: Nicholas Guilbault*

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