*Delegation from Marianopolis College Represented by Samah Khandker*

*Position paper for 8th United States Congress - Thomson J. Skinner MA*

***Topic 1: Barbary Wars***

Considering the political division within the state of Massachusetts, there are differing opinions amongst various congressmen depending on whether they are a Federalist or a Democratic-Republican. Bearing in mind the expenses of an eventual war, the member of the House believes it is of utmost importance to evaluate the pros and cons of *paying tribute to pirates*. Considering our land is a global rising power, one must simultaneously bear in mind long term economical sustainability and short term international presence of our nation. I believe the best way to deal with the Barbary states is by attempting to reach a compromise, through diplomacy. We do not have the capital nor the resources in place to sustain a long-standing war. Though European countries were successful in paying tribute to the pirates, problems arose with regards to the sums allotted. Though it is a matter of principle that the US must not stop fighting, reaffirming one’s dominance must not get out of hand. Through a strict budget in place, recommending that any engagement should be kept small, we shall solve the problem, regardless of the method.

***Topic 2: Federal Judiciary System***

Several judiciary acts were passed in the years leading up to 1803, demonstrating the divisive nature of this topic. I have an in-depth understanding of the principles behind the judiciary branch. Skinner reaffirms that the latter must have the right to impede on the other branches with power to overturn all decisions for the sake of our country. Bearing this in mind, the three-branch system of government must maintain equilibrium. This would not make it more difficult for the will of the people to be expressed in the legislation that is passed as the principle of judicial review established by the Marshall court would be respected. The federal government must play its crucial role within the nation, as this would solely respect the will of democracy. We must make alterations to the judiciary system in order to best represent the Democratic-Republican ideals.

***Topic 3: Louisiana Purchase***

I am a part of the Democratic Republican party which is in favour of purchasing Louisiana. Considering the expansion of American territory is objectively just, we must form alliances in order to bring down France. I believe the territory should be settled for a sum of 10$ million. The purchase should be made through a broker sent to negotiate with France, in a moment of monetary needs. The risk of angering the French and Spanish is worth the gains. It is, after all, the most valuable target to focus on at the present time. Jefferson describes the land of Louisiana as “the fertility of the country, its climate and extent, promise in due season important aids to our treasury, an ample provision for our posterity, and a wide-spread field for the blessings of freedom.”[[1]](#footnote-1) Not only would this purchase allow to double our nation’s territory, there is also a tremendous amount of economic potential. Though this territory has a port crucial to our international trade and transportation, the territory must be purchased and not taken by force. The newly purchased states must also be integrated into the rest of the Unites States, creating a sense of unity. First of all, being from Massachusetts, I believe slavery should be abolished. Through firm laws, the slave situation, including the Indian slaves, will be restored. Someone with an understanding of the diverse background of the people of this territory should govern over it. This will reduce any potential backlash from the different ethnicities living there. Considering the territory is wildly unexplored, I believe “coureurs des bois” should be sent to report on these regions.

***Sources***

<http://www.uswars.net/barbary-war/>

<https://history.state.gov/milestones/1801-1829/louisiana-purchase>

<https://www.boundless.com/u-s-history/textbooks/boundless-u-s-history-textbook/securing-the-republic-1800-1815-11/the-jefferson-administration-96/judicial-review-and-marbury-v-madison-519-9703/>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomson_J._Skinner>

1. <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/how-the-louisiana-purchase-changed-the-world-79715124/?no-ist> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)