

Thomas Jefferson to James Monroe January 10, 1803.

1803, Jan 10

Dear Sir

Washington Jan 10 1803



I have but a moment to inform you that the power into which the Western world is thrown, stimulated by the voracity, & generally the fiducial interest, threatens to overbear our peace. in this situation we are obliged to call on you for a temporary sacrifice of yourself, to prevent this greatest of evils in the present prosperous tide of our affairs. I shall tomorrow nominate you to the Senate for an extraordinary mission to France, if the circumstances are such as to render it impossible to decline, because the whole public hope will be vested on you. I wish you to be either in Richmond or Albemarle till a minute earlier letter from me, which will be written two days hence, if the Senate decide immediately, or later according to the time they will take to decide. in the mean time may wish night & day to arrange your affairs for a temporary absence, perhaps for a long one. accept affectionate salutations.

Th: Jefferson

Geo: Monroe

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[Transcription]

Washington Jan [January]10 1803

Dear Sir

I have but a moment to inform you that the fever into which  
by the affair at N. [New] Orleans  
the western mind is thrown ^ stimulated by the mercantile, and generally  
the federal interest threatens to overbear our peace. In this situation  
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to prevent this greatest of evils in the present prosperous tide of our  
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on you. I wish you to be either in Richmond or Albemarle till you  
receive another letter from me, which will be written two days hence  
if the Senate decide immediately or later according to the time they  
will take to decide. In the meantime pray work night and day to arrange  
your affairs for a temporary absence; perhaps for a long one.  
Accept affectionate salutations.

Thomas Jefferson