

1 of separation of church and State on which the Constitu-
2 tion or the Convention of New York foundered. It was a
3 question of prime importance before the legislature in
4 Florida when they were in the process of reviewing their
5 Constitution. It has been the major issue in Rhode Island,
6 and likewise in Michigan, and it was, as all of you know,
7 the paramount issue of the Convention of 1787 when our
8 Constitution was adopted.

9 To refresh your recollection, you will remember
10 that Madison, who, incidently, was the son of a minister
11 himself, spent ten years of his life fighting against
12 Patrick Henry and the Virginia establishment for absolute
13 separation of Church and State. He wanted what he
14 called a, quote, wall of separation, unquote, between Church
15 and State, and Jefferson agreed with him.

16 He nearly lost the battle in Virginia when the
17 assessment bill was passed, which was a measure, as you
18 recall, levying taxes, which was nothing less than the sup-
19 port of religion.

20 He won partly by strategy and partly by his his-
21 toric and memorial remonstrance against any aid whatsoever