

‘This suggestion arose, they believe, from a desire to resuscitate the National Bank; it being presumable that gentlemen who had declared the old charter to have been unconstitutional, could not be prevailed on to grant a new one. It appeared, therefore, to your committee, that the proposed amendment being intended to get clear of difficulty respecting the bank; other objects were introduced rather as a convenient cover than as needful concomitants.

‘Whatever may be the case with respect to banks, the proposed amendment, so far as regards roads and canals, appeared to your committee, worse than useless—because the power to apply national treasure to such objects, *with consent of the respective states, is unquestionable*, and so far as relates to roads, has been sanctioned by frequent usage. On the subject of banks and roads, nevertheless they did not find themselves called on to express their sentiments, but felt it a duty to declare, on all proper occasions, a decided opinion that the states would not consent to vest in the national government a power to cut up their territory, for the purpose of digging canals. Your committee found another idea operating with baleful effect, though seldom and cautiously expressed. The population and resources of the State of New York, furnish no pleasant reflections to men, whose minds are imbued with State jealousy; and although the proposed canal must not only be of the highest importance to the western states, as well as to the states of Pennsylvania and *Maryland*, and greatly promote the prosperity of the whole Union, it was obvious that an opinion of its superior benefit to this state was sedulously inculcated. An opinion which there is reason to fear, will have but too much influence in every consideration of this subject.’

---

*Fifthly*—The special message of President Madison to Congress, commending the application of New York to their favorable consideration—December, 1811, same vol. p. 95.

#### ‘MESSAGE

‘*To the Senate and House of Representatives of the U. States:*

I communicate to the Congress, copies of an act of the Legislature of New York, relating to a canal from the great lakes, to Hudson’s river. In making this communication, I consult the respect due to that state, in whose behalf the commissioners appointed by the act, have placed it in my hands for the purpose.—The utility of canal navigation is universally admitted. It is not less certain, that scarcely any country offers, more extensive opportunities, for that branch of improvements, than the United States, and none, perhaps, inducements equally persuasive, to make the most of them. The particular undertaking contemplated by the State of New York, which marks an honorable spirit of enterprise, and comprises objects of national as well as more