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INAUGURATION FEVER: ANALYSIS OF MADISON'S ADDRESS AND WHAT IT MIGHT MEAN FOR OBAMA

Washington, D.C.—The United States Constitution in its Article II, Section 1, Clause 8 dictates the oath that an incoming President recites during his inauguration but what else is said (and done) on the anointed day has certainly varied. For instance, William Henry Harrison preceded his taking of his oath of office with a record 8,495-word address lasting 1.75 hours in a snowstorm that—in complete conflict with the occasion's purpose—essentially killed him within a month.

Although Tyler, Fillmore, Andrew Johnson and Arthur did not use the occasion to speak, historically Presidents (and their speechwriters) have tended to examine quite closely what their predecessors have said to craft subsequent inaugural addresses. Madison was no different and in doing so even made reference to Washington as his “most revered authority.” Undoubtedly Obama will do the same for his own speech on January 20th. So, what might Obama learn from an examina-

tion of Madison's first inaugural address delivered 200 years before his own?

Madison's oratory began with an eloquent tribute to his predecessors and acknowledgment of the electoral process that had thrust him into office.

Although a person today clearly has to exert a great deal of personal effort in order to attain the office, Madison's speech leaves one thinking that he had taken on the role miraculously at the request of the electorate acting in unison as he turned to assert that he realized “the honor and the responsibility” of the role “allotted” to him.

Obama will undoubtedly also characterize the times as unique

Madison was quick to attribute the Nation's prosperity to the “benign influence of our republican institutions” which other nations missed because “so many of them were engaged in bloody and wasteful wars”. Although Obama will not be able to allege this point, he will easily be able to do that which Madison also said while making the previously mentioned assertion: the “present situation of the world is indeed without a parallel, and that of our own country full of difficulties.”

Indeed, it appears that Madison was being quick to reassure everyone that he was the right person for the moment, which undoubtedly every subsequent President has sought to assert in one form or another. In Madison's case, he proceeded to then recite just what he intended to “cherish,” “maintain,” “prefer,”

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Washington, D.C.—Having achieved sweeping re-election victories in November, key legislators supporting the legacy of James Madison are expected to move quickly to continue their efforts for Madison in the 111th Congress.

Following a brief post-election, “lame duck” session that wrapped up the business of the 110th Congress, with Democrats firmly in control of all legislative activ-

...WITH 111th HR 3640 GAINS RENEWED MOMENTUM

ity, the 111th Congress is expected to quickly gain momentum and achieve results that the Nation has not seen in years.

With the commencement of the bi-centennial of the Madison Presidency rapidly approaching on March 4, the reinvigorated support of Madison's long-time Congressional supporters **Representatives Baron Hill (D, IN-9th)** and **Brian Baird (D, WA-3rd)** should finally achieve some finality from their renewed sponsorship of HR 3640 that has sought creation of a James Madison Memorial Commission. Expanded support for such legislation is expected. Notably, **Representative Eric Cantor (R, VA-7th)**, current Republican Whip and holder of the House seat once held by Madison, appears positioned to add his bi-partisan support to the Madison bi-centennial effort.

Alert your Washington, D.C. representatives of your interest in saluting the bi-centennial of Madison's Presidency. Visit our site to transmit emails to Congress—



<http://www.rallycongress.com/americansformadison>

1809-2009: ADDITIONAL MADISON INAUGURATION HIGHLIGHTS THAT HAVE CONTINUED FOR OVER 200 YEARS

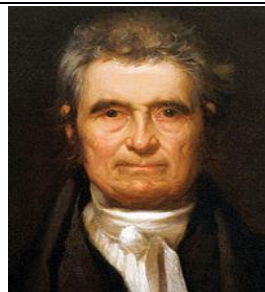
Madison's Inauguration on March 4, 1809 was his first but it also established a number of other firsts that have been carried on over the past two hundred years and which will be evident on January 20th as Obama takes his Oath of Office:

Madison wore the first completely American-made inauguration wardrobe in 1809. Madison's wife Dolley was the first First Lady to attend an inauguration. Although George Washington hosted an Inaugural Ball in NYC a week after his own first Inauguration, Madison held the first Inaugural Ball in DC--on the day of the Inauguration--at Long's Hotel where 400 people paid \$4 per person to party until Midnight. Although socially astute Dolley undoubtedly thought otherwise, the childless Madison himself dryly remarked during the ball “I would much rather be in bed.”



Long's Hotel today:

The tradition continues but the original locale has dramatically changed over the past 200 years. Across from the U.S. Capitol, the Library of Congress now stands on the site previously occupied by Long's Hotel where the first Inaugural Ball was held by James and Dolley Madison on March 4, 1809.



John Marshall (1755-1835) presided at a record nine Inaugurations during his term as Chief Justice (1801-35) including both of Madison's.

“exclude,” “foster,” “hold,” “support,” “respect,” “avoid,” “preserve,” “observe,” “liberate,” “keep,” “promote,” “favor” and “carry on.” If Obama begins to use these words, you can safely assume that he is following Inaugural tradition and Madison.

Obama's politics will preclude certain similarities

As a close political ally of his predecessor Thomas Jefferson, Madison spent a portion of his speech to thank graciously Jefferson for his “illustrious” service and use of his “exalted talents.” Obviously, Obama will not be well served to similarly thank his predecessor for his service.

Finally, it will be interesting to see how Obama deals with religion in his speech. Madison both relegated it to something outside of government by saying he would “avoid the slightest interference with the right of conscience or the functions of religion” and to something he would rely on in dealing with “every difficulty” since the “Almighty Being” had “conspicuously dispensed” blessings “to this rising Republic.”

