

Thomas Hart Benton Remarks To The Senate On The Expunging Resolution: A Historical Masterpiece

: The Oratory of Thomas Hart Benton

Thomas Hart Benton, a towering figure in American politics during the 19th century, was renowned not only for his political acumen but also for his exceptional oratorical skills. As a senator from Missouri, Benton left an enduring legacy through his eloquent speeches, which captivated audiences and shaped the course of national debates. Among his most notable speeches is his address to the Senate on the Expunging Resolution, a powerful oration that showcased his deep knowledge of American history, his unwavering principles, and his unwavering commitment to the ideals of democracy.

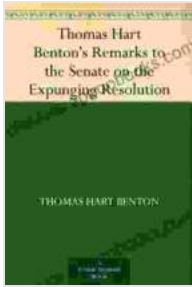
Delivered on January 12, 1837, Benton's speech on the Expunging Resolution was a masterful defense of the legacy of President Andrew Jackson and a scathing indictment of the Bank of the United States. The resolution, introduced by Benton himself, sought to expunge from the Senate record a resolution condemning Jackson's removal of federal deposits from the Bank. Benton argued that the original resolution was unconstitutional and politically motivated, and that it should be removed from the record to restore the honor of the Senate and the presidency.

Thomas Hart Benton's Remarks to the Senate on the Expunging Resolution by Thomas Hart Benton

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 60 KB



Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 8 pages
Lending	: Enabled



Historical Context: The Bank War and the Expunging Resolution

The debate over the Expunging Resolution was rooted in the long-standing conflict between President Jackson and the Bank of the United States. Jackson, a staunch believer in the power of the people, viewed the Bank as a symbol of elite control over the nation's economy. In 1832, he vetoed the Bank's recharter bill, sparking a fierce political battle known as the "Bank War." The Senate's subsequent resolution condemning Jackson's actions further escalated tensions, leading to Benton's impassioned speech in defense of the president.

Benton's resolution to expunge the condemnation was a bold move, as it challenged the authority of the Senate and threatened to undermine the institution's credibility. However, Benton was undeterred, arguing that the original resolution was a violation of the Constitution and that it had no place in the official record of the Senate. He maintained that the Senate had overstepped its authority by condemning the president, and that such actions could set a dangerous precedent for future political disagreements.

Key Arguments: Benton's Defense of Jackson and the Constitution

Throughout his speech, Benton presented a compelling series of arguments in support of his resolution. He began by asserting that the

original resolution condemning Jackson was unconstitutional, as it violated the separation of powers between the executive and legislative branches of government. He argued that the Senate had no authority to censure the president for his actions, and that such a move would undermine the independence of the presidency.

Benton also argued that the original resolution was politically motivated and that it did not represent the true sentiments of the American people. He pointed out that Jackson had been re-elected by a landslide majority in 1832, despite the Bank's opposition. Benton maintained that the Senate's resolution was an attempt to overturn the will of the people and to silence the voice of the president.

In addition to his constitutional and political arguments, Benton also invoked historical precedent to support his case. He pointed to the example of George Washington, who had been criticized by Congress but had refused to be censured. Benton argued that Jackson, like Washington, was a strong and independent leader who should not be subject to the whims of Congress.

Enduring Significance: A Legacy of Oratory and Political Courage

Benton's speech on the Expunging Resolution remains a powerful example of his oratorical skills and his unwavering commitment to his principles. His arguments were both persuasive and passionate, and they helped to shape the course of the debate over the Bank of the United States and the presidency of Andrew Jackson. Ultimately, Benton's resolution passed the Senate, and the original resolution condemning Jackson was expunged from the record.

Beyond its immediate impact, Benton's speech continues to be studied and admired by historians and political scientists. It is considered a classic example of American oratory, and it serves as a reminder of the power of speech to shape public opinion and influence political outcomes. Benton's courage in standing up for his beliefs, even in the face of opposition, is an inspiration to all who seek to make a difference in the world.

: A Must-Read for History Buffs and Political Enthusiasts

Thomas Hart Benton's Remarks To The Senate On The Expunging Resolution is a must-read for anyone interested in American history, politics, or oratory. It is a captivating and thought-provoking speech that offers insights into a pivotal moment in American history. Benton's arguments are both persuasive and passionate, and they provide a valuable perspective on the Bank War and the presidency of Andrew Jackson.

Whether you are a seasoned history buff or simply curious about the power of speech, I highly recommend reading Benton's speech. It is a timeless masterpiece that will undoubtedly leave a lasting impression.



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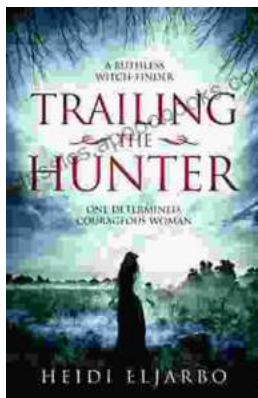
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