

Samuel Smith to Andrew Jackson, June 17, 1832, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

SAMUEL SMITH¹ TO JACKSON.

1 Senator from Maryland 1822–1833.

Washington, June 17, 1832.

D'r Sir, This letter requires no answer

I recieved on friday the Enclosed letter from my Son.² I pray you to read it, and take it for as much as it is worth. He appears to have assumed what appears to be a general opinion, "That you will give the Bank Bill your Veto" and wishes, that which almost all your friends desire, That you may give such reasons as will leave the Subject *open* for the decision of the people at their next Election. This will quiet those of your friends who require that the Bill should now be signed by you. The mootng of the question at the present Session was against my Opinion. It will however have the Effect to Cause all the Elections to be contested on the principle of Bank or no Bank. And if the people shall in that way determine for a renewal of the Charter, Sound Policy would Say—Comply with their declaration.

² John Spear Smith, who wrote from Montebello, near Baltimore. He urged that Jackson should come out in favor of a bill to force the Bank of the United States to lend money at five per cent. instead of six. He said Biddle and the supporters of the bank were not opposed to it. Of the expected veto of the bill to recharter the bank he said: "The President has, without touching the constitutional question, the strongest arguments to put in his veto message, should he put his negative on the bill. First, that some three millions of

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people are unrepresented in the present Congress. Second, that the subject has not been fairly put to them yet, and the presumption is that at the next elections, they will select representatives, with an eye, in part, to this subject. Third, no inconvenience can result from the postponement, but much benefit may be the result, as the intervening time may afford much light on the wants of the country, in its new attitude, of exemption from debt, and diminished revenue.”

My own private Opinion is to dissappoint those who have pressed the Subject, who expect and Count on your Veto, as a means to injure the Party in public Opinion. I believe it will have little Effect but I should like to dissappoint those gentlemen. If, however you should determine against signing the Bill at present, I pray, Beg and intreat you to do it, So as to leave the Subject open for the decision of the people

With the sincerest personal and political Regard, I am 31