Name:

Date:

School:

Facilitator:

8.01 Era of Good Feelings

*Maysville Road Bill*

The *Maysville Road Project* was a project proposed as part of Henry Clay’s *American System*. The federally funded turnpike would unite Louisville and Maysville in Kentucky, two major cities on the Ohio River. Congress passed the bill in 1830. The bill authorized the federal government to purchase $50,000 worth of stock in a private company that would build the turnpike.

President Jackson quickly vetoed the bill. Jackson felt the project was unconstitutional because he said the federal government didn’t have the right to fund an intrastate (within a state) project. Jackson contended an intrastate project didn’t benefit the entire country.

He wrote this to Congress when he vetoed the bill.

I have maturely considered the bill proposing to authorize

“a subscription of stock in the Maysville, Washington, Paris,

and Lexington Turnpike Road Company and now return the

same to the House of Representatives . . . with my objections

to its passage . . . such grants have always been professedly

under the control of the general principle that the works might

be thus aided should be “of a general, not local, national, not

State,” character. A disregard of this distinction would of

necessity lead to the subversion of the federal system.

**Questions:**

1. Do you believe President Jackson’s veto of the *Maysville Road Bill* was the appropriate action?

Defend your answer.

2. Suppose you were a supporter of the American System. How could you modify the bill to make

it acceptable to Jackson?