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Title: Letter from James Buchanan to James Reed et al.

Date: May 11, 1844

Location: MC 1998.10, B2, F7

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Washington 11 May 1844

Gentlemen /

I have this moment received yours of the 9th instant, enclosing the proceedings of a Democratic Meeting recently held at the Court House of Thence William County; and, ^{asking} in obedience to the second resolution of that meeting, ~~asking~~ my opinion in regard to the annexation of Texas to the Union.

You may rest assured that it would afford me pleasure to respond to your call, were it not that my position, as a Senator & member of the Committee on Foreign Relations, renders it proper, in my opinion, that I should refrain from any public ~~extended~~ discussion of the subject, whilst the Treaty of annexation is actually pending before the Senate in Executive, and of course, secret, Session. It is true that I have formed a very decided judgment on this grave & important question which ~~would~~ ^{would} most probably coincide with your own; but it will best comport with the rules & practice of the Body of which I am a member, to pronounce it by my vote upon the Treaty. After this shall have been ratified or rejected, I may perhaps present my views at large upon the subject to my fellow Citizens.

With sentiments of grateful respect & regard, I remain yours
James. H. Reed, P. D. Lipscomb,
James. B. J. Thornton & Daniel
Laspier Esquires, Committee &c &c,

very respectfully
James Buchanan

Washington 11 May 1844

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Jasper Esquire, Committee &c. &c.