

“NON-STOP”

Lyrics by Lin-Manuel Miranda

Please consider this question as you are listening to the song and be prepared to discuss with your group:

Why does Hamilton describe the U.S. Constitution as his “client” that needs defending?

[BURR]

Alexander?

[HAMILTON]

Aaron Burr, sir.

[BURR]

It’s the middle of the night.

[HAMILTON]

Can we confer, sir?

[BURR]

Is this a legal matter?

[HAMILTON]

Yes, and it’s important to me.

[BURR]

What do you need?

[HAMILTON]

Burr, you’re a better lawyer than me.

[BURR]

Okay.

[HAMILTON]

I know I talk too much, I’m abrasive.

You’re incredible in court. You’re succinct, persuasive.

My client needs a strong defense. You’re the solution.

[BURR]

Who’s your client?

[HAMILTON]

The new U.S. Constitution?

[BURR]

No.

[HAMILTON]

Hear me out.

[BURR]

No way!

[HAMILTON]

A series of essays, anonymously published, defending the document to the public.

[BURR]

No one will read it.

[HAMILTON]

I disagree.

[BURR]

And if it fails?

[HAMILTON]

Burr, that's why we need it.

[BURR]

The constitution's a mess.

[HAMILTON]

So it needs amendments.

[BURR]

It's full of contradictions.

[HAMILTON]

So is independence.

We have to start somewhere.

[BURR]

No. No way.

[HAMILTON]

You're making a mistake.

[BURR]

Good night.

[HAMILTON]

Hey.

What are you waiting for?

What do you stall for?

[BURR]

What?

[HAMILTON]

We won the war.

What was it all for?

Do you support this constitution?

[BURR]

Of course.

[HAMILTON]

Then defend it.

[BURR]

And what if you're backing the wrong horse?

[HAMILTON]

Burr, we studied and we fought and we killed

For the notion of a nation we now get to build.

For once in your life, take a stand with pride.

I don't understand how you stand to the side.

[BURR with ENSEMBLE, ENSEMBLE]

I'll keep all my plans close to my chest.

Wait for it, wait for it, wait...

I'll wait here and see which way the wind will blow.

I'm taking my time watching the afterbirth of a nation.

Watching the tension grow.

[ANGELICA]

I am sailing off to London.

I'm accompanied by someone who always pays.

I have found a wealthy husband

Who will keep me in comfort for all my days.

He is not a lot of fun, but there's no one

Who can match you for turn of phrase,

My Alexander.

[HAMILTON]

Angelica.

[ANGELICA]

Don't forget to write.

[ELIZA]

Look at where you are.

Look at where you started.

The fact that you're alive is a miracle.

Just stay alive, that would be enough.

And if your wife could share a fraction of your time,

If I could grant you peace of mind,

Would that be enough?

[BURR]

Alexander joins forces with James Madison and John Jay to write a series of essays defending the new United States Constitution, entitled The Federalist Papers. The plan was to write a total of twenty-five essays, the work divided evenly among the three men. In the end, they wrote eighty-five essays, in the span of six months. John Jay got sick after writing five. James Madison wrote twenty-nine. Hamilton wrote the other fifty-one!

Source: Miranda, L. -M. (2015). Non-Stop. Genius Media Group Inc. <https://genius.com/albums/Lin-manuel-miranda/Hamilton-an-american-musical-original-broadway-cast-recording>