

ANALYZING Political Cartoons

THE XYZ AFFAIR

"The Paris Monster" is the official title of this 1798 political cartoon satirizing the XYZ Affair. On the right, the five members of the French Directory, or ruling executive body, are shown demanding money. On the left, the Americans echo Charles Pinckney's actual reply: "No, no, not a sixpence!"

The French Directory is a five-headed monster demanding "Money, Money, Money!!"

The Americans answer, "Cease bawling, monster! We will not give you sixpence!"



CRITICAL THINKING Compare and Contrast How would you contrast the cartoon's depiction of the American representatives with its depiction of the French Directory?



See Skillbuilder Handbook, page R24.

Marshall to Paris. Arriving there, they requested a meeting with the French minister of foreign affairs. For weeks, they were ignored. Then three French agents—later referred to as X, Y, and Z—took the Americans aside to tell them the minister would hold talks. However, the talks would occur only if the Americans agreed to loan France \$10 million and to pay the minister a bribe of \$250,000. The American representatives refused.

Adams received a full report of what became known as the **XYZ Affair**. After Congress and an outraged public learned of it, "Millions for defense, not one cent for tribute!" became the popular slogan of the day. In 1798, Congress canceled its treaties with France and allowed U.S. ships to seize French vessels. Congress also set aside money to expand the armed forces.

The Alien and Sedition Acts Conflict with France made Adams and the Federalists popular with the public. Many Democratic-Republicans, however, were sympathetic to France. One Democratic-Republican newspaper called Adams "the blasted tyrant of America. Angered by criticism in a time of crisis, Adams blamed the Democratic-Republican newspapers and new immigrants,