

"That if any person shall write, print, utter . . . any false, scandalous and malicious writing or writings against the government of the United States, or either house of the Congress of the United States, or the President of the United States, with intent to defame the said government . . . then such person, being thereof convicted before any court of the United States having jurisdiction thereof, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding two thousand dollars, and by imprisonment not exceeding two years."

**Alien and Sedition Acts, 1798**

**Transcript Courtesy of the *Avalon Project* at Yale Law School**

Based on the above excerpt, which statement explains an effect of passage of the Sedition Act?

- A. Public criticism of government was prohibited.
- B. It became more difficult for new immigrants to vote.
- C. The president gained new powers to deport foreigners.
- D. The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was protected.