

37TH CONGRESS 1861

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Abraham Lincoln and Congress

37th Congress

Excerpts from newspapers and other
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Apr. 15, 1861

**Proclamation of the President.
Extra Session of Congress.**

WASHINGTON, April 14th.

Whereas, the laws of the United States have been for some time past and now are opposed, and the execution thereof obstructed in the States of South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas, by combinations too powerful to be suppressed by the ordinary course of judicial proceedings or the powers vested in the Marshals by law; now therefore, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, in virtue of the power in me vested by the constitution and the law, have thought fit to call forth, and hereby do call forth, the Militia of the several States of the Union, to the aggregate number of 75,000 in order to suppress combinations, and to cause the laws to be duly executed.

The details for this object will be immediately communicated to the State authorities through the War Department. I appeal to all loyal citizens to favor, facilitate and aid this effort to maintain the honor, the integrity and the existence of our National Union, and the perpetuity of popular government, and to redress the wrongs already long enough endured.

I deem it proper to say that the first service assigned to the forces hereby called forth will probably be to re-possess the forts, places and property which have been seized from the Union, and in the event the utmost care will be observed, consistently with the objects aforesaid, to avoid any destruction of or interference with property, to any disturbance of peaceful citizens in any part of the country; and I hereby command the persons composing the combinations aforesaid to disperse and retire peaceably to their respective abodes, within twenty days from this date.

Deeming that the present condition of public affairs presents an extraordinary occasion, I do hereby in virtue of the power in me vested by the Constitution, convene both Houses of Congress. The Senators and Representatives are therefore summoned to assemble at their respective Chambers at 12 o'clock, noon on Thursday the 4th day of July next, then and there to consider, and determine such measures as in their wisdom the public safety and interest may deem to demand.

In witness I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington, this the fourteenth day of April in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and sixty one, and of the Independence of the United States, the eighty fifth,

By the President. ABRAHAM LINCOLN
WILLIAM H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.

President Lincoln's Reply to the Virginia Commissioners.

WASHINGTON, April 13.

The following is the reply of Mr. Lincoln to the Commissioners of the Virginia State Convention:

To the Hon. Messrs. Preston, Stuart and Randall:
Gentlemen—As a Committee of the Virginia State Convention, now in session, you present me a preamble and resolutions, in these words:

Whereas, In the opinion of this Convention the uncertainty which prevails in the public mind, as to the policy which the Federal Executive intends to pursue towards the Seceded States, in this extremity is injurious to the industrial and commercial interests of the country, and tends to keep up an excitement which is unfavorable to the adjustment of the pending differences and threatens the disturbance of the public peace, therefore

Resolved, That a Committee of three delegates be appointed to wait on the President of the United States, and present to him this preamble, and request him to communicate to this Convention the policy which the Federal Government intends to pursue towards the Confederate States.

I answer, I have to say that having at the beginning of my official term expressed my intended policy as nearly as I was able, it is with deep regret and mortification I now learn, there is great and injurious uncertainty in the public mind as to what that policy is, and as to what course I intend to pursue. Not having occasion as yet, to change it, it is now my purpose to pursue the course marked out in the inaugural address. I commend a careful consideration of the whole document as the best expression can give as to my purposes, as by these and, therein said, I now repeat that the power confided to me will be used to hold, occupy and possess property and places belonging to the government and to collect duties and imports; but beyond what is necessary for these objects there will be no invasion, no using of force against or among the people anywhere. By the words "property and places belonging to the government" I chiefly alluded to the military posts and property which were in the possession of the government when it came into my hands, but if, as now appears to be true, in pursuit of a purpose to drive the United States authority from these places, an unprovoked assault has been made upon Fort Sumter. I shall hold myself at liberty to re-possess it if I can and like places which have been seized, before the government was devolved upon me, and in any event I shall, to the best of my ability repel force by force.

In case it proves true that Fort Sumter has been assaulted, as has been reported, I shall perhaps cause the United States mails to be withdrawn from all the States which have seceded, believing that the commencement of actual war against the government justifies and probably demands it. I scarcely need to say that I consider the military forts and property situated in the States which claim to have seceded, to yet belong to the government of the United States as much as they did before the supposed secession. Whatever else I may do for the purpose, I shall not attempt to collect the duties on imports by any armed invasion of any part of the country; not meaning by this, however, that I may not land a force deemed necessary to relieve a fort upon the border of the country. From the fact that I have quoted a part of the Inaugural Address, it should not be supposed that I repudiate any other part of the whole, of which I reaffirm except so far as what I now say of the mails may be regarded as a modification.

WHAT ELSE IS TO BE DONE?—A few of the sympathizers with secession are complaining because Congress proposes to ratify the acts of the President done in excess of his authority for the defence of the government. "Let Mr. Lincoln bear the odium of the crime," they say. "Why should Congress assume it? It is no better for Congress to do it than for the President."

What would they have Congress do, if it is not to ratify these acts? Must Congress disband the forces in Washington and on the Potomac, raise the blockade, withdraw the garrison from Fortress Monroe, give up Baltimore to secession, and release the traitors who are now ruminating within the walls of Fort Mifflin?

BOSTON ADV

THE PRESIDENT AND THE BORDER STATE CONGRESSMEN.

President Lincoln invited the members of Congress from the Border States to the White House yesterday, and read them a paper, which will be given to the country tomorrow or next day. It commences by affirming, but not as a matter of reproach or blame, that, in the President's belief, the war would have been ended before now had the Border States promptly accepted the proposition for the gradual abolishment of Slavery embraced in the resolution recommended in a special message, and passed by both Houses of Congress. The manifesto proceeds to remark upon the great "pressure" brought to bear upon the Administration by the Free States, and in the context, which explains unmistakably in what direction that pressure is exerted, alludes to the proclamation of Gen. Hunter emancipating the slaves of three States. The President speaks of Gen. Hunter as an old friend, hitherto and now, as he presumes, and indicates that his proclamation was only a step forward. The President concludes with another appeal in the nature of a last warning to the people of the Border States.

Mr. Crisfield of Maryland made a few remarks after the President concluded, to the effect that the supporters of the plan of gradual emancipation could go more favorably before the people if they could make to them some practical proposition. The President then handed a copy of his message to Mr. Crittenden, and the Border State gentlemen bowed themselves out.

In the evening a meeting was held, at which most of the Representatives, but comparatively few Senators, from the Border States were present. A stormy debate was participated in by most of those in attendance. Kentucky, speaking through Messrs. Wickliffe, Wadsworth, and Mallory, was among the most bitter in opposing the President's plans, and Tennessee, through Messrs. Maynard and Clements, among the warmest in its support. Mr. Noell of Missouri, and one or two others, introduced resolutions indicating a willingness to adopt gradual emancipation, and Mr. Fisher of Delaware, a bill embodying it. Mr. Senator Carlile of Virginia, on the other hand, proposed a resolution, refusing to have anything to do with abolition, immediate or gradual, in language blunt, to say the least. Finally, a Committee was appointed, to whom the whole subject was referred, with instructions to report tomorrow.

The committee consists of Representative Crisfield of Maryland, Chairman; and Senator Carlile of Virginia, and Representative Maynard of Tennessee, Mallory of Kentucky, and Rollins of Missouri. Subsequently, upon the motion of an opponent of gradual abolition, who had found out that three out of the five members favored it, Senator Garret Davis of Kentucky, and Francis Thomas of Maryland, were added.

On the whole the meeting was, as we understand, more satisfactory than was anticipated by the President or by the more advanced members from the slave States. At least half of the Representatives are believed to be in favor of the President's plan; from Delaware, Mr. Fisher; from Maryland, Messrs. Webster and Leary, and Mr. Crisfield at heart, although being a large slaveholder, he is said to feel a delicacy in supporting a measure which will pay him more for his slaves than they are worth in these times.

Messrs. May, Thomas, and Calvert are totally opposed to emancipation. From Virginia, Messrs. Brown, Blair and Whaley favor the project, and Mr. Segur's views are not known with certainty. From Kentucky, Mr. Casey is the only Representative known to favor the President's plan. Mr. Crittenden is wavering; Messrs. Jackson, Grider, Harding, Wickliffe, Dunlap, Mallory, Wadsworth, and Menzies, are against. From Tennessee, Messrs. Clements and Maynard are for emancipation. From Missouri, Messrs. Blain, Rollins and Noell are for, and Phelps and Norton are against, the President's plan. [Washington despatch to New York Tribune, 13th.

The Representatives of the Border States spent some time in conference, last night, over the communication submitted to them by the President yesterday, urging action of their States favorable to the President's gradual emancipation views. The first and natural expression of these Representatives was, that the subject was not within the scope of their official duties. They were not here to mould or in any way direct the domestic legislation of their States. But they waved this point, and agreed to enter into consideration with the President of a question so vital to the national interests. After a full interchange of views on all the points presented by Mr. Lincoln, a committee of seven was appointed to prepare a response. Several drafts of a reply have been made—one by Carlile of Virginia, one by Mallory of Kentucky, and one by Crisfield of Maryland. The Committee will meet tomorrow and agree on one to be sent. The main feature of the reply, as indicated to you last night, will be retained, as follows:

1. That the Border States have come up to the full demands of the Government heretofore made on them, they having raised fully 80,000 men, now fighting for the Union, and they will raise their new quota under the new call.

2. In regard to the President's Emancipation offer, heretofore embodied in Congressional resolution, these men say that it is not practical nor specific. It proposes a change which can only be effected through State Conventions, and there it requires years. Kentucky's present Constitution requires four years to call a Convention and have it meet, and then, after going through the preliminary stages, and getting a State's consent, there would be no act of Congress to consummate, and the question would still be an open one, whether the National Government would or could appropriate the millions of money needed to carry out the scheme. This specific legislation should precede the State's preparation.

3. To obviate the delays of organized State action the Border State representatives think the offer should be made at once, and directly to the individual citizens of the Slave States, and then the questions would be at once solved, and in time to aid the Government. Congress would at once prove its willingness to appropriate the money, and the people of the States show their readiness to aid the Union even at the sacrifice of a radical change in their social organization.

In conclusion the representatives will assure the President that their constituents revere the Constitution and Union as deeply as ever; that they admire his heroic efforts so far to preserve both, and on that platform will not be surpassed by any portion of the Union in furnishing men and money for the work.

And this one additional will be embodied:

"That the Border Slave States are loyal to the Constitution and Union; enemies of secession; and though the Government should be overwhelmed in its struggle for the Union and Constitution, the Border States will not join their broken fortunes to the Southern Confederacy, but seek elsewhere new alliances and a new career."

The whole reply will breathe the most exalted spirit of unionism and loyalty. [Despatch to N. Y. News.

FROM WASHINGTON.

B. Transcript? — July 15, 1862
DAY OF ADJOURNING CONGRESS
FIXED.

The President on Emancipation.

Washington, 14th. The House has passed the Senate resolution to adjourn Congress on Wednesday.

The border States senators and representatives after interview with the President on Saturday, were at their request furnished by him with propositions in writing upon the subject of emancipation, according with suggestions heretofore officially communicated to Congress.

The propositions have been referred to a committee to frame a reply, which will be considered at the adjourned meeting.

LINCOLN LORE

No. 186

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

October 31, 1932

LINCOLN LORE

BULLETIN OF
THE LINCOLN
HISTORICAL
RESEARCH
FOUNDATION



ENDOWED BY
THE LINCOLN
NATIONAL LIFE
INSURANCE
COMPANY

Dr. Louls A. Warren - - - Editor

THE 37th CONGRESS 1861

With the approaching election there is an inclination to review similar events of the past. One year ago at this season Lincoln Lore published a list of the representatives in the thirtieth Congress. Abraham Lincoln was a member of that body.

This week we present the names of those who were members of the thirty-seventh Congress of 1861.

Senators

Anthony, Henry B., R. I.; Arnold, Samuel G., R. I.

Baker, Edward D., Ore.; Bayard, James A., Del.; Bingham, Kinsley S., Mich.; Bragg, Thos., N. Car.; Breckinridge, John C., Ky.; Bright, Jesse D., Ind.; Browning, Orville H., Ill.

Cameron, Simon, Pa.; Carlile, John S., Va.; Chandler, Zachariah, Mich.; Chase, Salmon P., Ohio; Chestnut, James, Jr., So. Car.; Clark, Daniel, N. H.; Clingman, Thos. L., No. Car.; Col-lamer, Jacob, Vt.; Cowan, Edgar, Pa.

Davis, Garrett, Ky.; Dixon, James, Conn.; Doolittle, James R., Wisc.; Douglas, Stephen A., Ill.

Fessenden, Wm. P., Me.; Field, Richard S., N. J.; Foot, Solomon, Vt.; Foster, Lafayette S., Conn.

Grimes, James W., Ia.

Hale, John P., N. H.; Harding, Benj. F., Ore.; Harlan, James, Ia.; Harris, Ira, N. Y.; Hemphill, John, Tex.; Henderson, John B., Mo.; Hicks, Thos. H., Md.; Howard, Jacob M., Mich.; Howe, Timothy O., Wisc.; Hunter, Robt. M. T., Va.

Johnson, Andrew, Tenn.; Johnson, Waldo P., Mo.

Kennedy, Anthony, Md.; King, Preston, N. Y.

Lane, Henry S., Ind.; Lane, James H., Kans.; Latham, Milton S., Cal.

McDougall, James A., Cal.; Mason, James M., Va.; Mitchel, Chas. B., Ark.; Morrill, Lot M., Me.

Nesmith, James W., Oreg.; Nicholson, Alfred O. P., Tenn.

Pearce, James A., Md.; Polk, Trus-ten, Mo.; Pomeroy, Samuel C., Kans.; Powell, Lazarus W., Ky.

Rice, Henry M., Minn.; Richardson, Wm. A., Ill.

Saulsbury, Willard, Del.; Sebastian, Wm. K., Ark.; Sherman, John, Ohio; Simmons, James F., R. I.; Stark, Benj., Oreg.; Sumner, Chas., Mass.

Ten Eyck, John C., N. J.; Thomp-

son, John R., N. J.; Trumbull, Lyman, Ill.; Turpie, David, Ind.

Wade, Benj. F., Ohio; Wall, James W., N. J.; Wigfall, Louis T., Tex.; Wilkinson, Morton S., Minn.; Willey, Waitman T., Va.; Wilmot, David, Pa.; Wilson, Henry, Mass.; Wilson, Robt., Mo.; Wright, Joseph A., Ind.

Representatives

Aldrich, Cyrus, Minn.; Allen, Wm., Ohio; Allen, Wm. J., Ill.; Alley, John B., Mass.; Ancona, Sydenham E., Pa.; Appleton, Wm., Mass.; Arnold, Isaac N., Ill.; Ashley, James M., Ohio.

Babbitt, Elijah, Pa.; Bailey, Gold-smith F., Mass.; Baily, Joseph, Pa.; Baker, Stephen, N. Y.; Baxter, Por-tus, Vt.; Beaman, Fernando C., Mich.; Biddle, Chas J., Pa.; Bingham, John A., Ohio; Blair, Francis P., Mo.; Blair, Jacob B., Va.; Blair, Samuel S., Pa.; Blake, Harrison G., Ohio; Bridges, Geo. W., Tenn.; Brown, Wm. G., Va.; Browne, Geo. H., R. I.; Buffington, James, Mass.; Burnett, Henry C., Ky.; Burnham, Alfred A., Conn.

Calvert, Chas. B., Md.; Campbell, James H., Pa.; Carlile, John S., Va.; Casey, Samuel L., Ky.; Chamberlain, Jacob P., N. Y.; Clark, Ambrose W., N. Y.; Clark, John B., Mo.; Clements, Andrew J., Tenn.; Cobb, Geo. T., N. J.; Colfax, Schuyler, Ind.; Conkling, Frederick A., N. Y.; Conkling, Roscoe, N. Y.; Conway, Martin F., Kans.; Cooper, Thos. B., Pa.; Corning, Eras-tus, N. Y.; Corwin, Thos., Ohio; Co-vode, John, Pa.; Cox, Samuel S., Ohio; Cravens, James A., Ind.; Crisfield, John W., Md.; Crittenden, John J., Ky.; Curtis, Samuel R., Ia.; Cutler, Wm P., Ohio.

Davis, Wm. Morris, Pa.; Dawes, Henry L., Mass.; Delano, Chas., Mass.; Delaplain, Isaac C., N. Y.; Diven, Al-exander S., N. Y.; Duell, R. Holland, N. Y.; Dunlap, Geo. W., Ky.; Dunn, Wm. McKee, Ind.

Edgerton, Sidney, Ohio; Edwards, Thos. M., N. H.; Eliot, Thos. D., Mass.; Ely, Alfred, N. Y.; English, James E., Conn.

Fenton, Reuben E., N. Y.; Fessen-den, Samuel C., Me.; Fessenden, Thos. A. D., Me.; Fisher, Geo. P., Del.; Flan-ders, Benj. F., La.; Foulke, Philip B., Ill.; Franchot, Richard, N. Y.; Frank, Augustus, N. Y.

Gooch, Daniel W., Mass.; Goodwin, John N., Me.; Granger, Bradley F., Mich.; Grider, Henry, Ky.; Grow, Ga-lusha A., Pa.; Gurley, John A., Ohio.

Hahn, Michael, La.; Haight, Ed-ward, N. Y.; Hale, James T., Pa.; Hall, Wm. A., Mo.; Hanchett, Luther, Wisc.; Harding, Aaron, Ky.; Harrison, Rich-ard A., Ohio; Hickman, John, Pa.; Holman, Wm. S., Ind.; Hooper, Samuel W., Mass.; Horton, Valentine B., Ohio; Hutchins, John, Ohio.

Jackson, James S., Ky.; Johnson, Philip, Pa.; Julian, Geo. W., Ind.

Kelley, Wm. D., Pa.; Kellogg, Fran-cis W., Mich.; Kellogg, Wm., Ill.; Ker-rigan, James E., N. Y.; Killinger, John W., Pa.; Knapp, Anthony L., Ill.

Lansing, Wm. E., N. Y.; Law, John, Ind.; Lazear, Jesse, Pa.; Leary, Cor-nelius, L. L., Md.; Lehman, Wm. E., Pa.; Logan, John A., Ill.; Loomis, Dwight, Conn.; Lovejoy, Owen, Ill.; Low, Frederick F., Cal.

McClermand, John A., Ill.; McIndoe, Walter D., Wisc.; McKean, James B., N. Y.; McKenzie, Lewis, Va.; Mc-Knight, Robt., Pa.; McPherson, Ed-ward, Pa.; Mallory, Robt., Ky.; Mars-ten, Gilman, N. H.; May, Henry, Md.; Maynard, Horace, Tenn.; Menzies, John W., Ky.; Mitchell, Wm., Ind.; Moorhead, James K., Pa.; Morrill, An-son P., Me.; Morrill, Justin S., Vt.; Morris, E. Joy, Pa.; Morris, James R., Ohio.

Nixon, John T., N. J.; Noble, War-ren P., Ohio; Noell, John W., Mo.; Norton, Elijah H., Mo.; Nugen, Robt. H., Ohio.

Odell, Moses F., N. Y.; Olin, Abram B., N. Y.

Patton, John, Pa.; Pendleton, Geo. H., Ohio; Perry, Nehemiah, N. J.; Phelps, John S., Mo.; Phelps, Timo-thy G., Cal.; Pike, Frederick A., Me.; Pomeroy, Theodore M., N. Y.; Porter, Albert G., Ind.; Potter, John F., Wisc.; Price, Thos. L., Mo.

Reid, John W., Mo.; Rice, Alexan-der H., Mass.; Rice, John H., Me.; Richardson, Wm. A., Ill.; Riddle, Al-bert G., Ohio; Robinson, James C., Ill.; Rollins, Edward H., N. H.; Rollins, James S., Mo.

Sargent, Aaron, Cal.; Scranton, Geo. W., Pa.; Sedgwick, Chas. B., N. Y.; Segar, Joseph E., Va.; Shanks, John P. C., Ind.; Sheffield, Wm. P., R. I.; Shellabarger, Samuel, Ohio; Sherman, Socrates N., N. Y.; Shiel, Geo. K., Oregon; Sloan, A. Scott, Wisc.; Smith, Edward H., N. Y.; Spaulding, Elbridge G., N. Y.; Steele, John B., N. Y.; Steele, Wm. G., N. J.; Stevens, Thaddeus, Pa.; Stratton, J. L. N., N. J.; Steele, Wm. G., N. J.

Thayer, Andrew J., Oregon; Thom-as, Benj. F., Mass.; Thomas, Francis, Md.; Train, Chas R., Mass.; Trimble, Carey A., Ohio; Trowbridge, Rowland E., Mich.

Upton, Chas H., Va.

Vallandigham, Clement L., Ohio; Vandever, Wm., Ia.; Van Horn, Burt, N. Y.; Van Valkenburgh, Robt. B., N. Y.; Van Wyck, Chas. H., N. Y.; Verree, John P., Pa.; Vibbard, Chaun-cey, N. Y.; Voorhees, Daniel W., Ind.

Wadsworth, Wm. H., Ky.; Walker, Amasa, Mass.; Wall, Wm., N. Y.; Wal-lace, John W., Pa.; Walton, Chas. W., Me.; Walton, Ezekiel P., Vt.; Ward, Elijah, N. Y.; Washburne, Elihu B., Ill.; Webster, Edwin H., Md.; Whaley, Killian V., Va.; Wheeler, Wm. A., N. Y.; White, Albert S., Ind.; White, Chilton A., Ohio; Wickliffe, Chas. A., Ky.; Wilson, James F., Ia.; Windom, Wm., Minn.; Wood, Benj., N. Y.; Woodruff, Geo. C., Conn.; Worcester, Samuel T., Ohio; Wright, Hendrick B., Pa.

Yeaman, Geo. H., Ky.

