

Why Lincoln? (Part 2)

(reading notes and musings from "And There Was Light" - Meacham)

With Lincoln's election there was a "freaking out" about his moral views on slavery. He didn't like it, and was outraged by the treatment of people, while wanted to keep the Union intact. His presence meant the end of slavery. He was against any compromise.

Andrew Jackson said that disunion by armed force is treason, and that's from a slave holding plantation owner who wanted to expand slavery. To him, the ballot box, courts, and amendments were the proper avenues for reform.

Senator Crittenden proposed amendments to protect slavery. The amendments would make Mexico, and Latin America open to slavery. Apparently about 250,000 people agreed with the idea, and there was a debate about whether the U.S. would be a single nation. The amendments were declined, though the former U.S. Presidents (Peace Conference?) were asked to help support it?

Lincoln was drawing on the idea in the Declaration of Independence that "All" were created equal. He won the election based on that idea. Without it, and that it offered something to regular citizens, the Revolutionary war would not have been won. Though Britain was fed up with the U.S. anyway, the Freedom idea of "something in it for everyone" was the incentive. And as the saying goes: "incentive drives behavior".

With the Electoral College vote counting soon, Former Virginia Governor Henry Wise was said to be raising a 25,000 Man army to March on the Capital. (Hmmm, sounds familiar?) The goal was to stop the counting of Electoral College votes.

History helps tell us: "OH WE HAVE BEEN THROUGH THIS BEFORE"

With rumors of Insurrection, it was said to be "Treason all around" the Government. Lincoln was warned by Attorney General Stanton that he didn't think the Union would still control Washington by March 4th. Secessionist imagined a new empire of slavery through Mexico.

General Winfield Scott deployed Federal Troops throughout the Capital to guard against insurrection. 100 plainclothes officers accompanied the path from the Senate to the House (for Electoral College votes).

1861, officially "Confederate States of America" for in Montgomery Alabama. Jefferson Davis was their President, and was said planning to assume power if Lincoln was assassinated. Meanwhile, Lincoln was mostly greeted civilly, though at times coldly by the opposition party.

Lincoln spoke gently to the Country's agitations. Advised no compromise and to "Keep cool", and the Good pledge of Freedom from Tyranny promised the Declaration of Independence was a guiding force.

The Four former Presidents supported an Amendment that protected slavery. The "Corwin Amendment" passed the Houses yet not the States. Yuk!!!

Lincoln embraced a "One Term" focus. No President had served a second term in 30 years. He knew the magnitude of the moment in history and how important his presence was. It was larger than life. He was attending more church services and cultivated a natural intuitive conviction that Universal Good needed to manifest.

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The important pivotal point is that the 13th Amendment was ultimately established to abolish slavery, not expand it. We take that fact for granted.