

# LINCOLN LORE

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## SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATES

### GALESBURG, OCTOBER 7, 1858

Those who have studied carefully the contents of the Lincoln-Douglas debates and observed the environment in which the contests were held will agree that the discussion at Galesburg on Thursday, October 7, offered the real climax of the entire series.

Galesburg also offered the climax of the series as far as attendance was concerned, it being estimated that twenty thousand people were present. The town should be honored for having made better preparation for the debate than any of the other communities. Not only was the speaker's platform arranged so that the walls of old Knox College served as a sounding board, but seating facilities were available for a great many people. The headquarters of Douglas were established at the Bonny House while Lincoln was entertained at the home of Henry R. Sanderson.

### Speech of Douglas

#### Introduction

Recalled that four years ago at Galesburg he defended his position upon the compromise measures of 1850 and the Kansas-Nebraska Bill (Paragraph 1).

During the last four years has devoted all his energies towards advocating the principles set forth by the Kansas-Nebraska Bill (2).

Has led in the fight against the LeCompton Constitution during the past year (3).

#### Argument

##### A. The English Bill.

The bill provides that the LeCompton Constitution shall be sent back to the people of Kansas for their adoption or rejection (4-5).

Equality among the different states is a cardinal principle on which all our institutions rest (6).

The bill is made a test in Illinois for the purpose of breaking up the Democratic organization and also to be made a test upon me (7-8).

Mr. Lincoln has no hope of success in the election except for the aid he is receiving from Federal office holders—professed LeCompton men (9-10).

##### B. The Sectional Party.

Has the country any interest in sustaining this organization known as the Republican Party which is sectional in its principles (11)?

No political creed is sound which cannot be proclaimed alike in all the states (12).

Lincoln finds it difficult to proclaim its principles in different parts of the same state (13).

Extracts read from Lincoln's speeches on the question of racial equality (14-18).

Lincoln is to be voted for in southern counties as a pro-slavery man and in northern counties as an abolitionist (19-22).

##### C. Racial Equality.

The Chicago doctrine of Lincoln's declaration that the negro and the white man are equal by the Declaration of Independence and by Divine Providence is a monstrous heresy (23).

The government was made by white men for the benefit of white men and their posterity forever (24).

##### D. The Dred Scott Decision.

Judge Taney ruled that a negro slave being property stands on an equal footing with other property (25).

If the people of a territory want slavery they make friendly legislation to introduce it, but if they do not want it they withhold all protection from it, and then it cannot exist there (26).

Lincoln's house-divided policy at the beginning of the republic would have made all states slave states (27).

Each state must settle the slavery question for herself, mind her own business, and let her neighbors alone (28).

### Speech of Lincoln

#### Argument

##### A. The Declaration of Independence.

The entire records of our country lack one single affirmation from one single man that the negro was not included in the Declaration of Independence (Paragraphs 1, 2).

The necessities of the present policy of the Democratic Party had to invent the affirmation that only whites were included (3).

##### B. The Sectional Party.

Mentions the "Free Democracy" and "National Democracy" branches of the Democratic Party which Douglas will not recognize (4-5).

Denies the charge that he (Lincoln) preaches different doctrines in different parts of the state and denies that any of his remarks relating to the position of the black man are in conflict (6-8).

The true test of the soundness of a doctrine is not that in some places people won't let you proclaim it (9-11).

Douglas himself is fast becoming sectional. The day is rapidly approaching when his pill of sectionalism, which he has been thrusting down the throats of Republicans for years past, will be crowded down his own throat (12).

##### C. The Compromise of 1850.

Nothing whatever of the principle of the Nebraska Bill in the Compromise of 1850 (14).

The New Mexico and Utah Bills upon their own intrinsic principles could not be taken as models (15).

##### D. The Moral Issue In Slavery.

The Judge is not in favor of making any distinction between slavery and liberty (16).

If it be admitted that slavery is wrong, Douglas cannot logically say that anybody has a right to do wrong (17).

There are those who contemplate slavery as a moral, social, and political evil, and look hopefully to a time when as a wrong it may come to an end (18).

##### E. The Republican Resolutions.

Refers to Douglas's charge that the National Democrats and Republicans had entered into an unholy alliance (19).

Democrats divided between Fremont and Fillmore, and Republicans not responsible for it (20).

Claims the resolutions first mentioned by Douglas at Ottawa were an absolute forgery, and reviews circumstances (21-26).

##### F. The Dred Scott Decision.

The third question put to Douglas at Freeport is again introduced as it was only answered by Douglas with a sneer (27-28).

Dred Scott decision affirms the right of property in a slave is distinctly and expressly affirmed in the former court (38-39).

Judge Douglas and all others who hold to this position are not prepared to show that no constitution or law can destroy that right (36-37).

Alleges that Douglas got his title as Judge by helping to break down the Supreme Court of Illinois, later becoming a Judge in that court and reversing the decision of the former Court (38-39).

Douglas is preparing the public mind to accept a new Dred Scott decision which will make slavery perpetual and national (40-41).

##### G. Extension of Slavery.

Douglas in favor of the acquisition of further territory in disregard of how it might affect the slavery question (42-43).

The slavery question is the only question that has ever threatened or menaced a dissolution of the Union, and it is an important question how new territory may affect us (44-47).

### Mr. Douglas's Rejoinder

Alleges Lincoln has one set of principles north and another south, referring to his statements on negro equality (Paragraphs 1-5).

Spurns the insinuation of complicity and fraud made upon the mistake relating to the Republican Resolutions (6-8).

The whole Republican Party in the northern part of the state is committed to the doctrine of no more slave states (9-11).

Lincoln is attempting to bring the Supreme Court into disrepute among the people because of the Dred Scott Decision (12-15).

Is Lincoln not bound to respect and obey the decision of the Supreme Court as much as I (16-17)?