

LINCOLN LORE

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LINCOLN'S FIRST INAUGURAL — PRO AND CON

A biased press is one of the by-product of a two party political system, and most papers, even those claiming to be independent, are major factors in spreading propaganda pro and con before and after each presidential campaign. Sometimes it appears as if the spirit of fair play seems to be lacking, which one looks for in nearly every contest where there seems to be a difference of opinion. The tendency to exaggerate the importance of a casual statement, the deleting of phrases in a sentence which changes the meaning of the argument, the misquoting of remarks which conveys a false impression

PRO

"A truer, or safer, or more patriotic policy it would be impossible, at this time, to inaugurate."

Newark (N. J.) Mercury.

"Its arguments are logical and convincing; its recommendations are expedient and right; and it cannot fail to be popular."

Auburn (N. Y.) Union.

"The whole civilized world will echo Lincoln's Inaugural, and agree that it is fair to both sides, and worthy of a patriot statesman."

Hartford Courant.

"The address is in admirable tone and temper. It breathes throughout the kindest spirit to the 'dissatisfied' people of the Southern States."

Philadelphia Inquirer.

"His words are not designated to conceal his thoughts. They are rather intended to express his ideas concisely and decidedly as possible."

N. Y. Commercial Advertiser.

"The address is as clearly decided in tone as it is mild. All other questions but the maintenance of the Union are allowed to pass untouched."

New-Yorker Demokrat.

"No one can fail to perceive the sharp, plain, and unmistakable language of Mr. Lincoln. There has been no such address since the days of Jackson."

Zion's Herald, Boston.

"It is just what we expected from a man whom we believe to be honest, and to be in the habit of using language in order to express his thoughts and opinions."

Pittsburgh Journal.

"The address is a calm, dispassionate, firm and satisfactory exposition of the doctrines of the Republican party, and the wants of the country. Taken as a whole, it meets our approbation."

Fall River (Mass.) News.

"We have no hesitation in saying that we regard the Inaugural as grand and admirable in every respect—being sound in its positions, patriotic in spirit, unanswerable in its arguments, and precisely fitted for the emergency."

Boston Journal.

and the attack on one's character through innuendo, are a few of the below the belt blows which are often observed.

While the partisan approach seemed to have greatly diminished during the last campaign it was running at high tide during the first administration of Abraham Lincoln. The comments on the inaugural address of President Eisenhower seem to invite an exhibit of statements pro and con which appeared in the press after President Lincoln had delivered his first inaugural.

CON

"The whole Message appears to be a loose, disjointed, rambling affair."

Chicago Times.

"No action of our Convention can now maintain peace. Virginia must fight."

Richmond Enquirer.

"The President holds out, except in words, mere words, very little of the olive branch."

New York Express.

"To our appreciation, this is the death-knell of peace. No sane man understands it in any other light."

Baltimore Republican.

"In a word, the Inaugural is not a crude performance—it abounds in traits of craft and cunning. It bears marks of indecision."

N. Y. Herald.

"There are some portions of it that display ability, but it is by no means certain that for these Mr. Lincoln is responsible."

New London Star.

"The policy indicated toward the seceding States will meet the stern and unyielding resistance of the united South."

Richmond Whig.

"Mr. Lincoln is no more successful with his pen than in making speeches; his talent evidently lies not in these accomplishments."

New York State's Zeitung.

"Mr. Lincoln's Inaugural, taken as a whole, is one of the most awkwardly constructed official documents we have ever inspected."

Philadelphia Evening Journal.

"Mr. Lincoln has utterly failed to recommend any measure looking to the preservation of peace and to the preservation of the Union."

Philadelphia Pennsylvanian.

"We much mistake the tendency of this wretchedly botched and unstatesmanlike paper, if it does not damage the cause of the Union, and strengthen the secessionists."

Hartford (Conn.) Times.

"The Inaugural, as a whole, breathes the spirit of mischief. It has only a conditional conservatism—that is, the lack of ability or some expediency to do what it would."

Baltimore Sun.