

# LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor  
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 1412

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

April 30, 1956

## MOST SIGNIFICANT CARTOON FEBRUARY 12, 1956

The cartoonist can always be depended upon to give emphasis to the trends of public thought and vital issues which confront the people. When this annual contest for "The Most Significant Cartoon" to be displayed on Lincoln's Birthday was originated ten years ago, the word "significant" was used to recognize the interpretative genius displayed by the artist in the analysis of current events.

It was almost a certainty that this February the favorite subject of the cartoonist would be some phase of the segregation controversy. Six of the fifteen finalist in the contest chose to explore this field. In the opinion of the judges Lou Grant's cartoon in the *Oakland (Cal.) Tribune* was the outstanding contribution.

Through the courtesy of the *Tribune*, Mr. Grant's cartoon entitled "That This Nation . . . Shall Have A New Birth of Freedom" is reproduced on this page. The artist by the use of three dots indicates a deletion in the text of the two words "Under God." Somehow they seem rather too important in the present controversy to have been omitted.

Lincoln's quotation bearing on the integration question, such as the one used on this cartoon can be supplemented by many others of like character. But if a close study is made of the question a hundred years ago one will find that he did not believe the two races could live happily together, and this sentiment held by many at that time had undoubtedly contributed of Lincoln's approach to much to the colonization project.

Possibly Lincoln's most direct statement on the question of integration occurred at Charleston, Illinois on September 18, 1858. The occasion for this reaction Lincoln notes in these words: "At the hotel today an elderly gentleman called upon me to know whether I was really in favor of producing a perfect equality between negroes and the white people." Lincoln then stated he had not proposed to talk on the subject but expressed himself in these words:

"I am not, nor ever have been in favor of bringing about in any way the social and political equality of the white and black races, that I am not nor ever have been in favor of making voters or jurors of negroes, nor of qualifying them to hold office, nor to intermarry with white people; and I will say in addition to this that there is a physical difference between the white and

black races which I believe will for ever forbid the two races living together on terms of social and political equality."

Lincoln's attitude with respect to negro suffrage changed considerable during the war and at its close in his very last public address he said: "I would myself prefer that it (elective franchise) now be conferred upon the very intelligent negroes and those who serve our

cause as soldiers." Later on in the same address he observes "grant that he (the negro) desires the elective franchise, will he not attain it sooner by saving the already advanced steps towards it; than by running backward over them?"

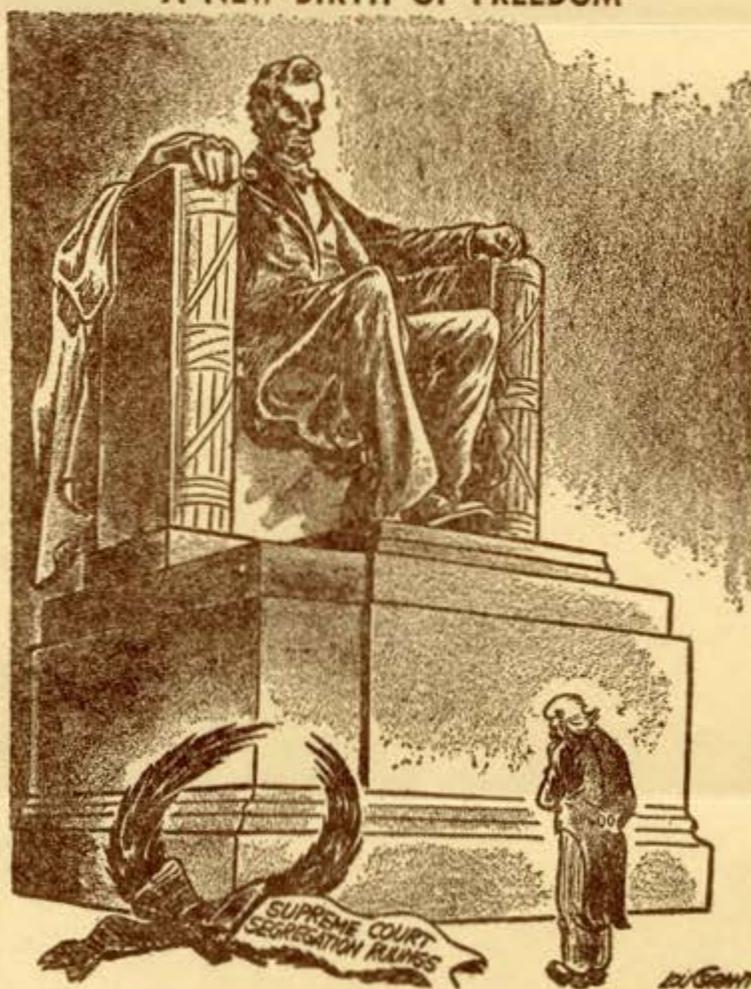
Not presuming to imply what stand Lincoln would take with respect to integration were he here today, we do recall that on another occasion when there was much controversy over emancipation he expressed this opinion in a letter to John A. Creswell on March 7, 1864:

"I think it probable that my expressions of a preference for *gradual* over *immediate* emancipation, are misunderstood. I had thought the *gradual* would produce less confusion, and destitution, and therefore would be more satisfactory." Possibly the word "gradualism," a word Lincoln would have liked, may be one of the key words in the present restless situation.

Some of the Lincoln cartoons which appeared on February 12, 1956 are listed below with name of artist, newspaper where it appeared, and the title of the drawing:

- Alexander, *Philadelphia Sunday Bulletin* "Faith for Lincoln's Day and Our Own."
- Bonelli, *Oregon Journal* "Still Work to Be Done."
- Hungerford, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* "Miss Lucy's Sponsor."
- Hutton, *Philadelphia Enquirer* "For Alabama, Too!"
- Miller, *Des Moines Register* "Some Unhappy Returns."
- Ostendorf, *Dayton Journal-Herald* "American Birth-right."
- Roberts, *St. Petersburg Times* "Words For Today."
- Russell, *Los Angeles Times* "There's No Greatness Like American Greatness."
- Shanks, *Buffalo Evening News* ". . . And That Government of the People. . ."
- Stern, *Boston Sunday Herald* "The Burning Issue."
- Warren, *South Bend (Ind.) Tribune* "Man to Man."
- Williams, *Detroit Free Press* "Vandalism."

### 'THAT THIS NATION...SHALL HAVE A NEW BIRTH OF FREEDOM'



L. GRANT