



Lincoln Lore

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Most Significant Lincoln Cartoons - February 1969

Each February for the past twenty-five years the Lincoln National Life Foundation has invited newspapers throughout the country to enter a contest to determine the most significant Lincoln cartoon to appear during the week of Lincoln's birthday. Only original cartoons being published for the first time were acceptable.

All entries were screened by the Foundation staff. Final judging was done by the eight members of the Bibliography Committee. Each judge cast three votes, counting 3 points for first place, 2 points for second place and 1 point for third place. Of the thirteen cartoons accepted by the committee, nine received votes.

First place went to Newton Pratt's cartoon, entitled "Liberty Is But Another Word For Equality" which was submitted by *The Sacramento Bee* (McClatchy Newspapers), Sacramento, California. This cartoon received a total of nine points (two first place votes, one second place and one third place).

Tying for second place were the cartoons of Bob Stevens and Lloyd Ostendorf, with a total of eight points each. Bob Stevens' cartoon, "... Let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds . . ." was entered in the contest by *The Illinois State Journal & Register* (The Copley Press, Inc.), Springfield, receiving two first and one second place votes. Lloyd Ostendorf's cartoon, "Is This Education?" was given two first and two third place votes. It was submitted by the *Dayton Journal Herald*.

Running a close third, with seven points, was Reg Manning's cartoon "1865 Message For America Of 1969" which was submitted by *The Bridgeport Post*, Bridgeport, Connecticut, for McNaught Syndicate, Inc. This entry received three second and one third place votes.

In addition to the above, the following cartoons were entered in the contest:

1. Historic Precedent

Lincoln, holding axe, with log cabin in background, reads paper titled "Illinois Austerity Program."

Parrish—*Chicago Tribune*

2. Today's Words He Never Used!

President Lincoln writing words like "Rights and Freedoms of Americans" while crumpled papers labeled "Hate" and "Revenge" lie discarded.

Wm. Sandeson—*The News-Sentinel*, Fort Wayne

3. The Will to Learn?

The boy Abe Lincoln trudging through the wood with book under arm, while in the far distance is a battered university overshadowed with cloud of student revolt.

Vaughn Shoemaker—*The Bridgeport Telegram*, Bridgeport, Conn. (Copyright by Chicago's *American*)

4. 'Me Too'

Bust of Lincoln on pedestal bearing words "I have endured a great deal of ridicule without much malice and I have received a great deal of kindness, not quite free from ridicule."—Lincoln. Facing bust is a target with smiling Spiro Agnew as the bullseye, untouched by the many darts which puncture the outer circles and lie in pile beneath the target.

L. D. Warren—*The Cincinnati Enquirer*

5. (Untitled)

Lincoln Memorial statue of Lincoln gazes down in astonishment at Negro marching past with sign "We Demand Racial Separation."

Ed Kudlaty—*Newspaper Enterprise Association*, Cleveland, Ohio
Herald-Whig, Quincy, Illinois
Topeka Daily Capital, Kansas
Columbus Citizen-Journal, Ohio

6. 'Now you two listen to me . . .!'

French's statue of Lincoln holds two belligerent boys, one on each knee. Each boy carries a sign labeled "Black Power" and "White Power" respectively.

Borgstedt—*Philadelphia Evening Bulletin*

7. "Very Good Very Good! But Please Explain to Me About This Strom Thurmond"

Lincoln speaking to Nixon, who is kneeling on one knee with hammer and chisel

carving out the word UNITY.

Hugh Haynie—*Louisville Courier-Journal*

8. (Untitled)

Ghostly figure of Lincoln adds quotation to large bag labeled "Advice" which President Nixon seems to be using for a wastebasket.

Green—*The Providence Journal*, Providence, R.I.

9. Basic Fundamentals

Lincoln, with Capitol in background, speaks "... that this nation under GOD, shall have a new birth of FREEDOM."

Lang—*The Daily Oklahoman*



Liberty Is But Another Word For Equality

By Newton Pratt

First Place

(Reprinted with permission of McClatchy Newspapers, for *The Sacramento Bee*, Sacramento, California)

Most Timely Lincoln Editorials February 1969

In conjunction with the annual Cartoon Contest, *Lincoln Lore* has featured each year since 1942 the most timely Lincoln editorials printed during the week of

'... Let us strive on to finish the work we are in,
to bind up the nation's wounds ...'



Bob Stevens Second Place
(Reprinted with permission of the *Illinois State Journal & Register* and the Copley Press, Inc.)

February 12. Of the fifteen editorials submitted to the Bibliography Committee this year, three were found to be outstanding.

Two editorials shared the honors for first place. One, entitled "Lincoln's Challenge Remains: What House Divided Against Itself Stands?" was written by James Brown of *The Sacramento Bee*, Sacramento, California; the other was authored by Don F. Graff, Managing Editor of *The Newspaper Enterprise Association of Cleveland, Ohio*, which serves over 700 newspapers throughout the country. Graff's editorial was entitled "No Ordinary Man" and it was also submitted, under the title "Lincoln, No Ordinary Man" by *The Bridgeport Telegram* and the *Columbus Citizen-Journal*. Each of the winning editorials received two first place and two second place votes, for a total of ten points.

Thomas S. Gephardt, editorial page editor of the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, won second place with his entry entitled "A Product Of The Spirit" which received two first place votes, one second and one third, for a total of nine points.

We have permission of the copyright owners to reprint the editorials winning first and second place, as follows:

Lincoln's Challenge Remains: What House Divided Against Itself Stands?

By JAMES BROWN

It was the singular genius of Abraham Lincoln that through the chaos of a nation on the brink of disintegration he perceived clearly the far vision which was to inspire the nation's course, a vision particularly valid today in the turmoil of racial separatism.

The 160th anniversary of his birth finds the nation at the testing point of the thesis on secession contained in his most remarkable state paper, the First Message:

"This is essentially a people's contest. On the side of the Union it is a struggle for maintaining in the world that form and substance of government whose leading object is to elevate the condition of men; to lift artificial weights from all shoulders; to clear the paths of laudable pursuit for all; to afford all an unfettered start and a fair chance in the race of life."

It was this, more than the abolishment of slavery,

which Lincoln saw as the paramount challenge facing the new young democracy: That there was no solution to the human separatism known as slavery in the separatism of the organic bond of national Union.

Without the preservation of the Union itself, he said, what chance was there that the humanity within its body could come to discover its common bond?

The course of secession, of disintegration, he saw, was the fallacious phantom which has shadowed mankind through the ages — that differences between men, somehow, can be annealed by separation of man from man, by the island isolation complex which is the root of separatism.

It was Lincoln's genius to see the fallacy and reject it.

The nation, he declared, as replica of the family of man, was one Union, dedicated to the high purpose of "an unfettered start and a fair chance in the race of life." Divided, it could not realize this goal any more than spouses in a marriage could achieve the ideals of union by living apart.

Lincoln's vision preserved the institution sheltering this concept of the family of man, but the shoring of its foundations, the securing of the seams is far from complete.

There persists, and is heard in the land today, the cry for racial separatism which would deprive the one people of their chance and challenge to bring into being true union. White, black or brown — all need the richness of each other's gifts and the lesson of forgiveness and love. How achieve these if the family breaks down into new separatism?

It is not a business which will be finished in this decade, or even this century. But integration of the Union remains what the genius of Lincoln knew it to be: "Essentially a people's contest . . . a struggle for maintaining in the world that form and substance of government . . ." etc.

It is the major challenge of the nation, beyond all foreign adventure. For, as the emancipator drew it from Scripture: "What house divided against itself shall stand?"

(The Sacramento Bee)



Is This Education?

By Lloyd Ostendorf Second Place
(Reprinted with permission of the *Dayton Journal Herald*)

No Ordinary Man

By DON GRAFF

What was it about Lincoln that he should be remembered and revered so long after his time?

He was our 16th president. But not all presidents are particularly well-remembered, let alone revered.

He was a wartime president. But there have been others, and few indeed stand forth so boldly three-dimensional from the pages of history.

True, he presided over the greatest war the nation had waged to that time, a conflict of tragically epic proportions that set brother against brother. But it was precipitated in part by his own election and left wounds not completely healed to this day. Another in such a situation might as easily have gone down in history not as the preserver but as the divider of the union.

No, it is something more, something about the man himself that the dramatic circumstances of his presidency only serve to bring into sharper relief.

A journalist of his time wrote: "A stranger meeting him on a country road, ignorant of his history, would have said, 'He is no ordinary man.'"

He was indeed no ordinary man. And it is the complex of extraordinary characteristics — the iron purpose tempered by compassion, the dedication to justice and duty, the ability and willingness to take upon himself and bear up under a nation's tragedy, the indomitable spirit that carried man and country through its trial by fire, and, above all, the humanity — that have made of Lincoln one of history's towering figures.

It is underlining the obvious to say that the memory and meaning of Lincoln have a particular relevance for our time.

We face a challenge today not unlike that of his time. And as then, the danger comes not from without but from within ourselves. It is division, today transcending geographical lines and confusing the purpose and goals of an entire people.

The challenge is before us in a new form. The task remains the same — to ensure that we do not lose by default what the blood and sacrifice of previous generations have gained.

To borrow from the quotable Lincoln: "If destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of free men, we must live through all time, or die by suicide."

(Newspaper Enterprise Assn.)

A Product Of The Spirit

By THOMAS S. GEPHARDT

There are two reasons why this 160th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth has particular relevance.

The first is that the contemporary generation of Americans is looking more critically at the quality of American life than any of its predecessor generations.

The second is that the nation has just lived through a year in which its divisions seemed deeper and more unbridgeable than at any time since Lincoln's.

No one can study Lincoln's career prior to his election as President in 1860, no one can count the setbacks and failures and frustrations, without marveling at the circumstances that propelled him toward his destiny and elevated him to an unchallenged station in the nation's admiration and affection.

Every President tends to reflect the mood of the people who elect him. But Lincoln, we think, reflected something deeper — which accounts for the durability of his greatness. He was an embodiment of the American spirit. His infinite compassion, his infinite patience, his infinite faith — these are the finest qualities of American life.

It is inconceivable to imagine — as some on the contemporary scene seemingly do — that the society that produced Lincoln, that pressed him into leadership and that continues to revere his name is hopelessly and constitutionally corrupt and morally indefensible.

Lincoln, to be sure, lived in a far different age and wrestled with far different problems. Yet the America of 1969 is, at root, the same as it has always been. Only the foliage differs. Lincoln symbolizes the sameness.

He symbolizes also the capacity of men of divergent views but overriding goodwill to bind up the nation's wounds and redirect its efforts toward the goals and aspirations they hold in common.

(The Cincinnati Enquirer)

In addition to the first and second place winners, the editorials entered in the competition included the following:

1. Let's Be Honest With Lincoln
Illinois State Register (Springfield)
2. A New Lincoln Voice
Illinois State Journal (Springfield)
3. Was Lincoln A Honkie?
Times-Democrat (Davenport, Iowa)
4. Lincoln's Climb To Greatness
Journal-Gazette (Fort Wayne, Ind.)
5. The Man And His Image
Akron Beacon Journal (Akron, Ohio)
6. The Words Of Lincoln
Arizona Daily Star (Tucson)
7. Lincoln's Springfield
The State Journal-Register (Springfield, Ill.)
8. Lincoln Still Inspires
Topeka Daily Capital (Kansas)
9. Memory of Lincoln lives on
Topeka State Journal (Kansas)
10. He would sorrow today
Quincy Herald-Whig (Quincy, Ill.)
11. A Man of Noble Ideals
Bridgeport, (Conn.) Post
12. Lincoln on National Suicide
Daily Oklahoman (Oklahoma City, Okla.)

A National Banking Scheme

On February 25, 1863 President Abraham Lincoln approved an Act establishing a system of national banks. Secretary of the Treasury, Salmon P. Chase, had written the measure which Congress authorized. However, further legislation was needed and Congress supplied it in the law of June 3, 1864, on "which the system, as it was to operate from the Civil War to the first World War, was actually based."

Then, as now, the money question was a complicated one, and Lincoln was the recipient of a lot of advice from bankers as well as from armchair financiers who thought they had a solution to the problems.

One such solution came from Benjamin Balch of Newburyport, Massachusetts, who wrote Lincoln on December 8, 1863. While we have been unable to identify the writer in standard reference works, we think the letter is of interest, not because of its sound financial advice, but because of its intricate nature.

Balch, in his letter, referred two different times to William P. Fessenden whom Lincoln nominated as Secretary of the Treasury on July 1, 1864. Fessenden, as a member of the Senate, was the chairman of the finance committee, and he had done a great deal of the preliminary work in preparing bills and had exerted tremendous energy in the work and responsibility of putting the finances of the country on a war footing.

The Newburyport correspondent went so far in his letter as to claim authorship of the National Banking System and referred to "my projection for a National Banking System in 1863."

This is the two hundred and twenty-third letter that the Foundation has acquired which is addressed to Lincoln. Was this scheme studied by the President? We have no way to determine this as the letter bears no endorsements. At least it was folded and labeled by a secretary "Benjamin Balch, Newburyport, Mass. on National Banking Scheme & etc., Dec. 12, 64." The letter follows:

\$120,000,000 annual Revenue overlooked!

Newburyport Mass.

December 8th 1864

To Our Honored

Chief Magistrate

Abraham Lincoln

President of the United States of America

Respected Sir,

I have just completed the perusal of your admirable Message to Congress, with which all are much gratified, but one vast comprehensive and most important subject connected with the creation of a National Safety Fund

of Five thousand millions of dollars by which more firmly to Establish the credit of the Government and to secure the redemption of the principal and interest of the entire war debt at maturity and by which to create an inexhaustible New Source of Internal Revenue by yearly Tax on \$5,000,000,000 National Revenue and Insurance Capital, deposited in the Treasury, $\frac{1}{3}$ of which will amount to (at least) enough to pay the Interest for 50 years on the war debt appears to have been overlooked in your Review of the Finances and Revenue, but if it can soon be made the subject of a Special Message to Congress (as was done with my projection for a National Banking System in 1863) and if it can be Recommended by Hon. Mr. Fessenden in a future Report it will unite the whole country and every large city and town (which may not organise under the National Insurance Law, in the payment of an annual Tax of 1/10 or 1/4 of one per cent of their aggregate wealth for the next hundred years by which Tax will be secured the annual accumulation of this National Sinking Fund with an Entire New Source of Internal Government Revenue (in addition to the present) of from \$50,000,000 to \$120,000,000 annually for the next half century. Sufficient (over and above all claims for Extraordinary Losses by Fire, Invasion or Capture) (within 50 years) for the Extinguishment of all but \$2000,000,000 of the Government Stocks which \$2000,000,000 the country requires as the basis of National Banking Revenue and National Insurance Capital permanently deposited in the Treasury.

Of course this Revenue is amount received annually will depend on the Rate of percentage fixed upon by Congress, upon the aggregate (not of the \$16,000,000,000 wealth of the Union) but only on such portion of it as is liable to destruction by the elements, say $\frac{1}{2}\%$ of it, or \$5000,000,000 as Land cannot burn or be destroyed. The yearly Tax can be fixed at the pleasure of Congress at 1/10, 1/4, or 1/20th part of one per cent on the aggregate wealth of Every City or Town or Insurance Company in the U. States, that shall neglect or fail to organise (within one year) under the provisions of this National Revenue and Insurance Law of Congress.

This Bill involving thousands of millions of wealth, the great National interests of the Country, the Stability of the Laws, the Credit of the Government, and the trade and commerce of the world, is now Ready for presentation in Congress, but before I shall trust it in the hands or disposal of any Senator, or Member of Congress, I choose first to have its merits and inestimable value understood by you and Mr. Fessenden and should you request it, I will at once inclose it by mail for your examination in every minutia.

The Bill has cost me years of labor and toil, and I do not wish to lose it, by the negligence or ignorance of brainless and heartless men who care for nothing but their selfish interests.

It contains 38 pages and takes a full hour to read it. Its plan is exactly similar to that of my National Banking System and Mr. Cooper's Bill (now a Law) passed 25 Feby. 1863.

It creates a new National Insurance & Revenue Bureau in charge of the President of the U. S. and of the Secretary of the Treasury, where all Securities (authorised) must be deposited as the Basis of National Insurance Capital for 20 years, on which capital (whether in Specie, Government Stocks, City Bonds, State Stocks or 1/20% of the value of any City or town credit or Savings Banks) one per cent annual Tax is imposed for the gradual accumulation of the National Safety Fund of \$5000,000,000, which Fund is liable only for Extraordinary Losses (by Fire, Invasion or Capture) beyond the Capitals deposited, allowing every city or town to do its own insurance and to have the benefit of the premiums & profits for the payment of their own debts and Taxes and all ordinary losses.

It is comprehensive beyond measure, safe beyond precedent, and in every respect ten times safer and more guarded against possibility of fraud or rascality, than any existing State Chartered Companies or System of State Laws ever was or ever can be made.

If you request it I will send you the Bill itself, in order that it may be made the Subject of a Special Message, as you did my National Banking Law in 1863.

Wishing you every worldly blessing, a long life and

every present and future happiness, and trusting in God for the Salvation of Our Country

I have the honor, most Respectfully and truly
To subscribe your most faithful & humble
Servant

Benjamin Balch

ODDS & ENDS

Editor's Note: Recently when making a compilation of the places where Lincoln lived and visited (to appear in *Lincoln Lore* No. 1578, August, 1969) I jotted down some "Odds and Ends" of information compiled by the editors of *Lincoln Day By Day—A Chronology* which held some interest for me. Upon discovering that some space needed filling in this issue of *Lincoln Lore*, I have selected some of the "Odds & Ends" which appealed to me for publication.

R. G. M.

January 30, 1861. Lincoln leaves Springfield on Great Western for visit to stepmother, Sarah Bush Lincoln, in Coles County, Ill. Arrives in Charleston on freight train shortly after 6 P.M., having changed trains at Mattoon.

February 9, 1861. Lincoln receives gift of suit of clothes manufactured by Titsworth & Brothers of Chicago, to be worn on March 4. Also receives whistle made from pig's tail.

February 15, 1861. Kisses little boy and three lasses while waiting in crowd at (Cleveland) depot.

February 20, 1861. Lincoln, Judge Davis, and Alderman Cornell arrive late at Academy of Music (New York) for performance of Verdi's new opera, "Un Ballo in Maschera," Lincoln wears black gloves and shocks city's elite.

August 31, 1861. Kittens given President by Seward are playing in hall. "Mr. Lincoln seems quite fond of them. Says they climb all over him."

May 10, 1862. Discovers that troops commanded by Col. Joseph B. Carr and Gen. Mansfield are not taking part in attack on Norfolk. Infuriated, he bounces his tall hat off the floor and dictates orders involving these troops.

July 10, 1862. President, accompanied by Cols. Blair and James Nagle and Asst. Sec. Watson, arrive at Navy Yard in afternoon aboard U.S.S. "Ariel" from three day trip to Army of Potomac. "Ariel" runs aground on Kettle Shoals and is delayed several hours during which time President and party go for swim in Potomac.

April 7, 1863. At Gen. Sickles' headquarters for review of troops President receives kiss from Princess Salm-Salm, whose husband is colonel with New York regiment.

December 17, 1863. Lincoln received watch for gift of draft of Emancipation Proclamation to Northwest Sanitary Fair (Chicago), where it sold for \$3000, making him largest individual contributor and award winner.

February 22, 1864. At 7:30 P.M., with Mrs. Lincoln and Robert, takes part in opening of Patent Office Fair for benefit of Christian Commission and families of District Volunteers. Following speech by L. E. Chittenden and poem by Commissioner French, Lincoln makes impromptu speech, which Mrs. Lincoln describes as "the worst speech I ever listened to in my life."

August 12, 1864. Walt Whitman, poet and hospital attendant, records: "I see the President almost every day, as I happen to live where he passes to or from his lodgings out of town . . . I saw him this morning about 8:30 coming in to business, riding on Vermont Avenue, near L Street. He always has a company of twenty-five or thirty cavalry, with sabers drawn and held upright over their shoulders."

October 20, 1864. Dr. Bellows visits Lincoln to present gift of gold box from citizens of California.

November 9, 1864. Presents ox, "General Grant," to National Sailors' Fair in Boston.

December 10, 1864. Receives letter of resignation from Marshal Lamon, because Lincoln does not take proper precautions against assassination.