



# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

CLEVELAND, OHIO

2060 Illuminating Building  
Cleveland 13, Ohio

February 4, 1963

## RUTHERFORD B. HAYES

Time: Tuesday, February 12, 1963 - 6:30 P. M.

Place: Kiefer's Restaurant, West 25th & Detroit

Speaker: Watt Marchman

Fittingly enough, the February meeting comes on Lincoln's birthday. The speaker, Watt Marchman is curator of the Hayes Memorial Museum, Fremont, Ohio. He has made an intensive study of this Civil War veteran and distinguished Ohioan who served as President of his country.

NOTE THAT THE MEETING HAS BEEN MOVED TO KIEFER'S - ROAST BEEF, SAUERKRAUT, ETC. - PLEASE RETURN THE CARD PROMPTLY.

## LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY

Because this issue heralds our February meeting, it is devoted largely to facts about Lincoln, based on his own statements and the words of his contemporaries. Lincoln has been made a legendary figure and, as with most legendary figures, his true character is too often shrouded in myths; his genuine greatness beclouded by fancies.

A keener appreciation of Lincoln as a great democratic leader derives from the knowledge that he was a humanitarian without becoming a sentimentalist; a humorist without becoming a buffoon; and a practical politician without sacrificing statesmanship. Lincoln, the man, outranks Lincoln the myth.

## LINCOLN AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

Monday, February 11, the National Broadcasting Company, Cleveland station KYW - Channel 3, at 9:30 P. M., presents Dwight D. Eisenhower on Abraham Lincoln as commander-in-chief of the Union forces in the Civil War. Advance notices indicate that Eisenhower will discuss Lincoln's ordeals and successes as well as those of Robert E. Lee.

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## LINCOLN AND HIS CABINET

### DISCUSS RACE PROBLEMS

"September 26, Friday (1862) at several meetings of late the subject of deporting the colored race has been discussed. Indeed for months, almost from the commencement of this administration, it has been at times considered. More than a year ago it was thrust upon me by Thompson and others in connection with the Chiriqui Grant, a claim to title from the Government of Costa Rica ... The President, encouraged by Blair and Smith, was disposed to favor it ... The President was earnest in the matter; wished to send the negroes out of the country ... It came out that the government and rival parties in Central America denied the legality of the Chiriqui Grant....

"On Tuesday last the President brought forward the subject and desired members of the Cabinet to each take it (negro deportation) into serious consideration. He thought a treaty could be made to advantage and territory secured to which the negroes could be sent. Thought it essential to provide an asylum for a race which we had emancipated, but which could never be recognized or admitted to be our equals. Several governments had signified their willingness to receive them. Mr. Seward (Secretary of State) said some were willing to take them without expense to us.

"Mr. Blair (Postmaster General) made a long argumentative statement in favor of deportation. It would be necessary to rid the country of its black population, and some place must be found for them ... Mr. Bates (Attorney General) was for compulsory deportation. The negro would not, he said, go voluntarily, had great local attachments but no enterprise or persistency. The President objected unequivocally to compulsion. Their emigration must be voluntary and without expense to themselves. Great Britain, Denmark, and perhaps other powers would take them. I remarked there was no necessity for a treaty ..." Diary of Gideon Welles, (Secretary of the Navy) Vol. I, page 150-152.

### LINCOLN AS TACTICIAN

"But he (Lincoln), submitted a plan of campaign of his own which he wanted me to hear and then do as I pleased about. He brought out a map of Virginia on which he had evidently marked every position occupied by the Federal and Confederate armies up to that time. He pointed out on the map two streams which empty into the Potomac, and suggested that the army might be moved on boats and landed between the mouths of these streams. We would then have the Potomac to bring our supplies, and the tributaries would protect our flanks while we moved out. I listened respectfully, but did not suggest that the same streams would protect Lee's flanks while he was shutting us up." Personal Memoirs, U. S. Grant, Vol. II, page 122.

## LINCOLN THE LAWYER

"In all the elements that constitute the great lawyer, he had few equals. He was great both at nisi prius and before an appellate tribunal. He seized the strong points of a cause, and presented them with clearness and great compactness. His mind was logical and direct, and he did not indulge in extraneous discussion. Generalities and platitudes had no charms for him. An unfailing vein of humor never deserted him; and he was always able to chain the attention of court and jury, when the cause was the most uninteresting, by the appropriateness of his anecdotes.

"His power of comparison was large, and he rarely failed in a legal discussion to use that mode of reasoning. The framework of his mental and moral being was honesty, and a wrong cause was poorly defended by him ... To his honor be it said, that he never took from a client, even when the cause was gained, more than he thought the service worth and the client could reasonably afford to pay ... He was not fond of controversy, and would compromise a lawsuit whenever practicable." The Life of Abraham Lincoln, Ward H. Lamon, quoting Mr. Justice David Davis (Justice Davis of the U. S. Supreme Court, previously presided over the eighth Illinois judicial circuit in which Lincoln practiced.)

## LINCOLN AND STATES RIGHTS

"Judge Douglas has said to you that he has not been able to get from me an answer to the question whether I am in favor of negro citizenship. So far as I know, the Judge never asked me the question before. He shall have no occasion to ever ask it again, for I tell him very frankly that I am not in favor of negro citizenship. This furnishes me an occasion for saying a few words upon the subject. I mentioned in a certain speech of mine which has been printed, that the Supreme Court had decided that a negro could not possibly be made a citizen ... Now my opinion is that the different states have the power to make a negro a citizen under the Constitution of the United States if they choose. The Dred Scott decision decides that they have not that power. If the state of Illinois had that power I should be opposed to the exercise of it. That is all I have to say about it." Created Equal? The Complete Lincoln-Douglas Debates of 1858, Paul M. Angle.

## TRUE DIGNITY

"In all my journeyings with him (Abraham Lincoln) I never heard any person call him 'Abe,' not even his partner, Herndon. There was an impalpable garment of dignity about him which forbade such familiarity. I have read pretended conversations with him in books and newspapers where his interlocutors addressed him as Abe this or Abe that, but I am sure that all such colloquies are imaginary." (The Lincoln and Douglas Debates, Horace White)

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## LINCOLN, PROVIDENCE AND DEMOCRACY

"The choice (of Lincoln as Republican nominee) was not the result of merit; on the other hand, it was not the result of the ordinary wicked wire-puller, for what may be called the machine was working for Seward. The choice was made by plain representative Americans who set to themselves this question: "With whom can we beat Douglas?" and who found the answer in the prevalence of a popular impression, concerning Lincoln and Seward, which was in fact wholly mistaken ... What did defeat him (Seward) was his reputation as a very advanced Republican who would scare away his weaker brethren ... So, to please those who liked compromise, the convention rejected a man who would certainly have compromised, and chose one who would give all that moderation demanded and die before he yielded one further inch. Many Americans have been disposed to trace in the raising up of Lincoln the hand of Providence protecting their country in its worst need. I would be affectation to set their idea altogether aside; it is, at any rate, a memorable incident in the history of a democracy, permeated with excellent intentions but often hopelessly subject to inferior influences, that at this critical moment the fit man was chosen on the very grounds of his supposed unfitness." Abraham Lincoln, Lord Charnworth, page 168.

## LINCOLN - HOPEFUL REALIST

Lincoln's Gettysburg address is known to most school children; his "house divided" is often quoted; his "malice toward none" is justly famous. Too little publicized is the following passage from his address before the Wisconsin State Agricultural Society, September 30, 1859. This passage probably demonstrates, more strikingly than any other, his unusual skill with words and the moving power of his simple eloquence. At the same time, the words reveals the basis of his sometimes melancholic yet always hopeful appraisal of his fellow men and their institutions. He had an abiding faith that human weaknesses were transient, human virtues enduring.

"It is said an Eastern monarch once charged his wise men to invent him a sentence to be ever in view, and which should be true and appropriate in all times and situations. They presented him the words, "And this, too, shall pass away." How much it expresses! How chastening in the hour of pride! How consoling in the depths of affliction! "And this, too, shall pass away." And yet, let us hope, it is not quite true. Let us hope, rather, that by the best cultivation of the physical world beneath and around us, and the intellectual and moral world within us, we shall secure an individual, social, and political prosperity and happiness, whose course shall be onward and upward, and which, while the earth endures, shall not pass away."