

Hon A Lincoln

Lis Kilua Bureau Co.

Dear Sir -

Aug. 23/58

I trust my motives will be a sufficient apology for thus addressing a stranger.

I had the pleasure of hearing your discussion at Ottawa with Judge Douglas, and in common with every Republican I have heard express himself, think you in most respects proved yourself his superior -

But allow me to say that, until you shall explicitly answer his questions - "What for or against ~~our~~ receiving any more slave states" - "Abolishing slavery in the district of Columbia" - "Fugitive slave law &c" I think before a popular assembly, he will from this source derive considerable advantage.

Our state reaching over so many degrees of latitude, & the opposition embracing about ~~about~~ an equal number of degrees of Anti Slavery, probably creates some difficulty in perfectly satisfying all your friends - but allow me to say that I think must any answer is better than none.

My own sentiments are "no more slave states", but this position seems not exactly in accordance with some utterances of Mr Sumner & the Chicago Press.

To take this position - "no more slave states" or to say that each case is to be judged as it arises, seems to leave Mr D a little patch of "Popular Sovereignty", while the position of Mr Sumner leaves him not a shred.

Should expediency - logical conclusions - & your own ^{Mr Sumner's} judgements & conscience constrain you to take ~~that~~ position, I do not think it will cost you a single vote in the North. Allow me to give, however, as my opinion that the Republican party hereafter & especially if successful will not finally endorse that position - But I write more especially to call

your attention to a fact in the Political history of the Country— It was I think in 1850 when the Senate of the U.S. were considering the bill for abolishing the Slave trade in the Dist of Columbia, Mr Seward of N.Y. offered a substitute for the Bill Abolishing Slavery itself — the question first to be submitted to the legal voters of the district — if not approved to be of no effect, but if approved by a majority vote, then by this Bill — \$200,000 Dollars was appropriated to make a just Compensation to the owners & perhaps to defray other expenses —

Thus while the Compromise measures of 1850 were under Consideration — the very measures which Mr. Osage introduced, Popular Sovereignty — Mr Seward introduced a genuine Popular Sovereignty Measure, wherein it was possible that Slavery might be the loser, & where was Mr O on the vote? — Not having the documents at hand, I cannot say for certain that he voted at all, but I am quite sure he did, and against the bill, as did ^{all} the ~~whole~~ Slave holders & all or nearly all their northern allies — I think Mr S. Mr Chase & Mr Sumner — possibly one or two others ~~were~~ ^{were} all the votes, this Popular Sovereignty, wherein freedom might gain, that it received, while Bogus Popular Sovereignty, wherein Slavery was given some chance, indeed almost forced into free territory, received Mr O's support.

I think I find this in a pamphlet published in Chicago in 1856 containing the Nebraska-Kansas bill — Speeches of Douglas — Seward — Chase — Missouri Compromise — Texas Compromise — &c — The Congressional Globe I suppose will show it all. All this may be familiar to you, but

lest it might not, & thinking that, perhaps it
might be important in connection with Mr D's
question concerning Abolishing Slavery in
the District of Columbia, I have taken the liberty
(I hope I have not unpardonably intruded,) to
send you an intimation of the same.

Allow me one other intimation —

The Position of the Douglas press on the result of
the Missouri Election so proves their sympathies
with Slavery as to be a rather tender subject with
their rank & file —

Hoping that the Republican Cause in Illinois
may triumph & you be its worthy representative in the
Senate I subscribe myself

Respectfully Yours,

L. D. Whiting

P.S.

I see by the papers you are to be at Freeport
Aug 27th & accordingly I address this to
you at that place.

Aug 23, 1858,

S. W. Whiting

Hon. A. Lincoln
Freeport
Stephenson Co
Illinois.

