

THIS WAS THE CIVIL WAR



FOCAL POINT—This newsmag, drawn especially for this article on the history of the Civil War, spots Charleston Harbor, an area that was the focal point of attention in the United States in late 1860 and early 1861. Maj. Robert Anderson had moved his Union garrison from Ft. Moultrie, a death-trap in the harbor, to Ft. Sumter, where he

President waited, "are misfortunes never to come singly?"

Buchanan Delays

Davis and his colleagues demanded that Buchanan order Anderson back to Moultrie. Buchanan begged off as the cabinet, having heard the news, began to check in the Northerners. Secretary of State Jeremiah Black, Attorney General Edwin M. Stanton and Postmaster General Joseph Holt, with blood in their eyes.

By then, Floyd had an answer from Anderson:

"The telegram is correct. I abandoned Ft. Moultrie because I was certain it was attacked, and the command of the harbor lost. I spiked the guns and destroyed the carriages to keep the guns from being used against us."

The war secretary was furious. This was against orders, he protested. Send Anderson back to Moultrie at once before there is bloodshed, he stormed at the President.

Black challenged this outburst. He called for the original order and it was brought over from the War Department. Floyd was wrong although his endorsement was on the order.

Floyd Changes Tactics

Floyd tried another course. The orders said that Anderson might move his garrison if there was "tangible evidence" of an impending attack. No such evidence existed, Floyd contended. But Black countered that if the major was not to be the judge of impending attack, then the order was meaningless.

Floyd again changed tactics. President Buchanan had pledged to Gov. Henry F. Pickens that the harbor garrison would remain "status quo," Floyd said. Now the President had dishonored his pledge.

This was news indeed to the Northerners. They wanted chapter and verse on the pledge.

Secretary of Interior Jacob Thompson, a Mississippi secessionist, joined Floyd in insisting the President had made such a pledge.

The President listened silently.

The angry Floyd immediately wrote what amounted to an ultimatum to the President and widened the demand. Either permit him to order Anderson out of Charleston defenses—not just back to Moultrie—or else. The "or else" presumably meant he would resign.

Stanton, never one to pull his punches, said heatedly that if the President gave in to Floyd's demands the crime would be "the Benedict Arnold's and any president ordering Anderson out of Charleston would be guilty of treason."

At that President Buchanan spoke up:

"Oh, no, not so bad as that my friend. Not so bad as that." The President chose to await official word from Anderson before making up his mind.

'Ambassadors' Call

The President had a curious entry in his appointment book for the next day, Dec. 28. He was to see—unofficially—a delegation from South Carolina, sent to Washington to treat with a "foreign power"—the United States—about the Charleston forts. R. W. Barnwell, Harvard graduate, former senator, former representative, ex-college president, headed the delegation. With him were J. H. Adams, Yale graduate, ex-governor, and a secessionist who favored reopening the African slave trade, and James L. Orr, former speaker of the House.

Buchanan saw them as private citizens, not as "ambassadors." He reminded them that that South Carolina had seized Ft. Moultrie, Castle Pinckney, the Charleston arsenal, the post office and the custom house. The delegation reminded the President he had broken the pledge. They talked two hours. Finally Buchanan said:

"Mr. Barnwell, you are pressing me too importantly. You don't give me time to say my prayers. I always say my prayers when required to act on any great state affair."

That night the cabinet met again in another stormy session to consider the delegation's demands.

Thompson carried the ball while Floyd lay on a sofa. Black, Stanton and Holt drove Thompson from position to position until the Mississippiian began to talk "polymouth." After all, he said, South Carolina was a small state, with a minority of white inhabitants. The United States was big, powerful, rich. It could afford to concede a point.

This was more than Stanton could take. He attacked Floyd and spread before the cabinet what it already knew but talked little about—a scandal in Floyd's department.

"Mr. President," Stanton said, "only the other day it was announced that a million dollars had been stolen from Mr. Thompson's department."

"The bonds were found to have been taken from the vault where they should have been and the notes of Mr.

Floyd were substituted for them. Now it is proposed to give up Sumter. All I have to say is that no administration, much less this one, can afford to lose a million of money and a fort in the same week."

Behind the Scandal

A firm of contractors, Russell, Waddell and Majors, had supplied the Army and was in financial trouble because Congress was slow to pay. Floyd issued notes to them certifying that the Army owed the money. The contractors used the certificates for credit, but when the paper came due they could not pay. Bailey was induced to hand over the bonds in his keeping to the

contractors, putting in their place Floyd's certificates. Whether Floyd knew about this substitution was never established. He was indicted, but the charges were dropped after he went over to the Confederacy.

The cabinet met again the next night, Dec. 29, but without Floyd. He had resigned that day. His story was that he quit because Buchanan would not remove Anderson. The country thought it was because of the bond scandal.

Cabinet Crisis Threatens

Buchanan had written a reply to the South Carolina delegation. The Northern cabinet members disapproved because it gave in to the Southerners. The Southerners because it did not go far enough. They wrangled for an hour or so and broke up again.

Black lay awake all night. Dawn of Sunday, Dec. 30, found him with his mind made up. He told his colleagues if

Buchanan sent his answer to the delegation, he would resign. Stanton said he would, too. Isaac Toucey, secretary of Navy, told Buchanan, and the President crumpled. His administration couldn't stand another upheaval. He gave his answer to Black and Stanton for revision. They changed it from appeasement to defiance. Before night Buchanan sent his reply. It was stiff. He had been asked to remove U.S. forces from Charleston under threat:

"This I cannot do; this I will not do."

FOLDS UP FINALLY

Atlanta—UPI—The last Civil war agency of the Georgia state government went out of existence today. The state Department of Confederate Pensions and Records which handles pension payments to 172 widows of Confederate soldiers, officially became a part of the state Department of Veterans service.

Medford Youth Attends University of Kansas

Lawrence, Kan.—One Medford student is among a record total of 10,036 attending the University of Kansas this year, according to the director of admissions. Theodore Earl Lawson, son of Dr. and Mrs. Earl L. Lawson, 301 Windsor ave., Medford, is a sophomore at the university. The student body includes representation from all 105 Kansas counties, the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, plus a record-high of 309 foreign students from 62 countries.

TURKEY GETS AID

Washington—UPI—The International Monetary Fund has authorized Turkey in 1961 to draw up to \$37.5 million in currencies held by the fund. The fund also announced Friday that Turkey will receive a \$50 million credit from the

Organization for European Economic cooperation.

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Buchanan Turns Northern

By MERTON T. AKERS
UPI Correspondent

In the final week of 1860, President Buchanan finally turned solidly Northern.

Events had come a full circle in less than a month and the man who started it all was none other than Maj. Robert Anderson, a hardy artilleryman who obeyed orders.

His coup against the South Carolinians in moving his pint-sized garrison from Ft. Moultrie, a death-trap in the Charleston, S. C., Harbor, to Ft. Sumter, where he had gunnery room to fight, stirred official Washington.

Word of Anderson's move on Dec. 26 sparked a five-day cabinet crisis. Before it was over President Buchanan was forced into a decision by angry cabinet members and ordered reinforcements for the spunky major. The fact that the order later was watered

down and the reinforcements never reached Ft. Sumter mattered not at the moment. The decision served notice on the Southern conspirators in the capital that the administration was now headed by a Northern cabinet. The Southerners were set back on their heels and had to replan their moves.

Floyd Challenges Anderson

Secretary of War John B. Floyd, a Virginia secessionist with a low boiling point, heard of Anderson's move from his friends in South Carolina early on Dec. 27. He refused to believe it and telegraphed Anderson:

"Intelligence reached here this morning that you have abandoned Ft. Moultrie, spiked your guns, burned the carriages and gone to Ft. Sumter. It is not believed because there is no order for any such

movement. Explain the meaning of this report."

The message dispatched, Floyd called on his Southern friends in Washington for help.

The response came before noon. Sens. Jefferson Davis of Mississippi and R. M. T. Hunter of Virginia with William Trescott, until lately assistant secretary of state, hastened to the White House. Davis acted as spokesman.

He asked President Buchanan if he had heard that day from Charleston. The President said he had not.

"I have a calamity to announce to you," Davis said in his gravest tones. Then he told of Anderson's move.

"Now, Mr. President," Davis went on as if announcing the crack of doom, "You are surrounded with blood and dishonor on all sides."

"My God," the hargled



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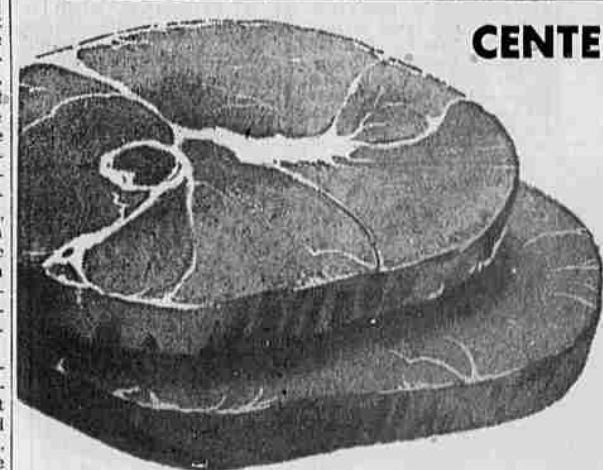
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