

THIS WAS THE CIVIL WAR

Lincoln's Reconstruction Plan

By MERTON T. AKERS
United Press International

1860. To be eligible each voter was required to take an oath to uphold the Constitution and all acts of Congress and presidential proclamations concerning slavery.

was not in effect, as well as abolitionists everywhere. He was doing something but not doing something but not enough, fast enough, the vocal abolitionist contended.

He outlined the plan in his State of the Union message delivered to Congress on Dec. 9. As a part of the plan he added a general offer of amnesty to the Confederates.

The amnesty offer excluded officials of "the so-called Confederate government," anyone above the rank of army colonel or navy lieutenant in its armed services, anyone who left the Federal Congress or courts to aid the rebellion, all U. S. Army or Navy officers who resigned their commissions at the start of the war and any who had mistreated prisoners of war, white or Negro.

Lincoln could and did point out his Emancipation Proclamation had been in effect nearly a year, that many thousands of slaves had been freed and that slave revolts, freely predicted by Southerners and Northerners alike, had not occurred.

The dim face of victory for Northern arms was forming and Lincoln could glimpse it. But he was cautious about defining it.

He ended the proclamation by saying, "... while the mode presented is the best the executive can suggest, with his present impressions, it must not be understood that no other possible mode could be acceptable."

John Hay, one of the President's secretaries, went to the capitol to hear the clerk read his chief's message.

"... we must not lose sight of the fact that the war power is still our main reliance," he told Congress.

He refused even to listen to proposals for the only peace possible between us—a peace which... may leave the two peoples separately to recover.

Gen. Robert E. Lee's invasion of Pennsylvania and the battle of Gettysburg forced "their armies to cross the Potomac and fight in defense of their own capital and homes," Davis said, "... and in the hard-fought battle of Gettysburg inflicted such severity of punishment as disabled them from early renewal of the campaign."

"To that power alone can we look, yet for a time, to give confidence to the people in the contested regions; that the insurgent power will not again overrun them. Until that confidence shall be established, little can be done anywhere for what is called reconstruction."

Within six months the proclamation would cause a showdown between the President and Radical Republicans in Congress over the reconstruction problem.

for "a restoration of the currency to such a basis as will enable the Department (of War) to purchase necessary supplies in the open market."

"Hence our chiefest care must still be directed to the Army and Navy, who have thus far borne their harder part so nobly and well. And it may be esteemed fortunate that in giving the greatest efficiency to these indispensable arms, we do also honorably recognize the gallant men, from commander to sentinel, who compose them, and to whom, more than to others, the world must stand indebted for the home of freedom disenthralled, regenerated, enlarged and perpetuated."

Already there was agitation in the North for a constitutional amendment to abolish slavery, ready had been introduced—

But Davis called in vain for sound financing. Neither he nor the Confederate Congress ever found a way around the constitutional ban on a direct tax which had to be levied on the states according to their population. The Confederacy never took a census and a direct tax could not be allocated. So the printing presses rolled on.

The reconstruction and amnesty plan was in the form of a proclamation.

One of its chief exponents was Wendell Phillips, long time abolitionist and forceful speaker. He was stumping the North trying to arouse public opinion for the amendment. Two bills already had been introduced—

Davis could see no early end to the war.

His proclamation offered to take back into the Union any Confederate state which would establish a loyal government by a vote of one-tenth or more of the registered voters of

the amendment. Two bills already had been introduced—one in the House and one in the Senate—to send such an amendment to the states for ratification. At this point Lincoln was keeping hands off.

of the war has not been realized," he told the Richmond Congress. "Could carnage have satisfied the appetite of our enemy for the destruction of human life, or grief have appeased their wanton desire to inflict human suffering, there has been bloodshed enough on both sides, and two lands have been sufficiently darkened by the weeds of mourning to induce a disposition to peace."

The President's policy brought down Phillips' wrath. He was too slow, Phillips said. He was trying to be President of all the people—loyal slave owners in the border state where the Emancipation Proclamation

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PLANS OUTLINED — On Dec. 9, 1863, President Lincoln outlined his plans to reconstruct the South in his State of the Union message to Congress. Although he still looked to his armed forces as an instrument of policy, he planned a proclamation of amnesty. Two days earlier, President Jefferson Davis sent his message to the Confederate Congress. The military scene was not as rosy as it had been a year ago and he could see no early end to the war. Shown here in drawings are Lincoln, left, and Davis. (UPI)

Firemen Put Out Two Flue Fires

The Medford fire department was called to put out two flue fires Saturday and to investigate a smoke complaint. A flue fire at the C.M. Stieger residence, 810 E. Jackson St., about 5:06 p.m. burned an area of wall paper and caused some smoke damage, firemen said. Lea Motors, Fifth and Bartlett Streets, reported that smoke from a nearby trash fire had drifted into their show room about 5:19 p.m.

Some fire place doors at the E. V. Kellogg residence, 409 J Street, were damaged about 7:30 p.m. when the fire got too hot firemen said. No damage was reported other than to the glass doors.

Hatfield Warns Of 'Virus Of Hate'

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. (UPI) Gov. Mark O. Hatfield of Oregon Saturday called on labor and management to work together with open minds rather than be torn apart by the "virus of hate." "We cannot afford this virus of hate whether it's a political extremism of the right or left or in labor-management relations," he said.

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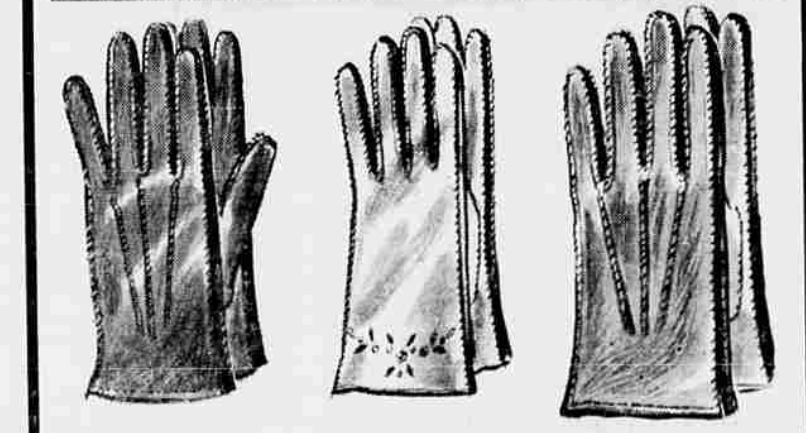
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