Editorial Page

If Lincoln Were Alive

It was one hundred years ago—on April 14, 1865—that Abraham Lincoln was assassinated.

What would he think if he were here to observe his birthday with the rest of the nation?

He would have to wonder what has slowed us down in attaining the brotherhood of man for which he fought and died a century ago.

He might well marvel at the obstinacy of the human race in failing to heed the lessons so tragically and dramatically offered in the bloody War Between the States.

He perhaps would be astonished to find that the poverty into which he was born and reared still prevails so largely in a land of plenty.

He could not help but be gratified that his name remains, a century later, a symbol of freedom, compassion and selfless dedication to his country.

He could understand better than most that the President of the United States must be resigned to ceaseless criticism and open hostility even as he receives worldwide recognition of his leadership and power.

He might find comfort in seeing that after generations of stagnation the great issue which split the nation in his day is at last being resolved at an ever-quickening pace.

And in his wisdom he would comprehend that the differences which now confuse his country and engulf the world can in truth be composed through the same patient understanding and love of fellow man that have made Abraham Lincoln timeless and immortal.

A grateful nation again observes the birthday of a giant. It does it with respect and reverence, regardless of race, creed or politics.

A Paper Jungle

Rep. Olsen of Montana has given his colleagues in Congress and the American taxpayers food for thought by making public a preview of an upcoming report by the House Subcommittee on Census and Government Statistics entitled "The Federal Paperwork Jungle."

No less than 4.5 billion new federal records are being created each year — and stored in government buildings "at a cost of $2 per square foot, on the average," according to the congressman.

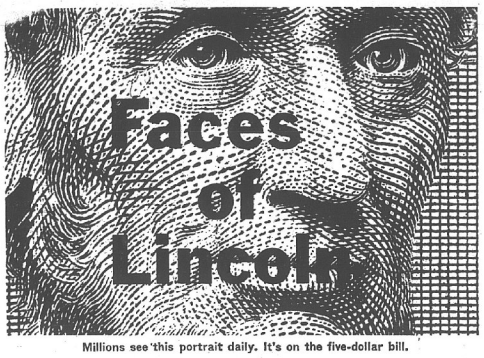
What's more, the cost of this papermill is not limited to government agencies. It costs the nation's small businessmen $2 billion a year to supply the information demanded by Washington. The committee found one regulatory agency which last year produced a questionnaire costing a minimum of $85,000 to complete.

The paper burden has grown considerably since the Hoover Commission 10 years ago found "reporting to the government is excessively expensive and burdensome." Following this report, President Eisenhower in 1956 ordered the Bureau of the Budget to reduce the paper burden on business.

But still it grows. Red tape accumulation continues at a record pace. The Internal Revenue Service—by far the government's greatest collector of reports — averages about 500 million a year, and the Social Security Administration places second with 300 million.

Obviously, it will take stronger action than a presidential directive to the Bureau of the Budget — such as President Eisenhower issued in 1956 — to relieve business of some of its reporting burden. President Johnson's order to the bureau to cut back on federal purchases of file cabinets will have no effect on the propensity of bureaucrats to surround themselves with paper.

What is required is a new commission, fashioned along the lines of the Hoover Commissions but armed with the power to put into effect improvements approved by Congress. This might not succeed, but anything less will surely fail.



Millions see this portrait daily. It's on the five-dollar bill.

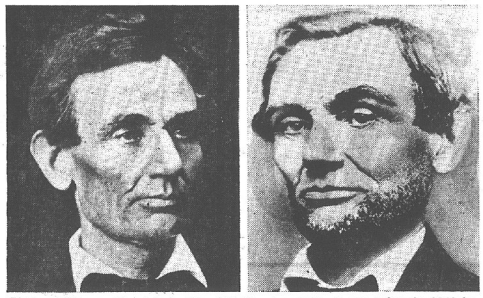
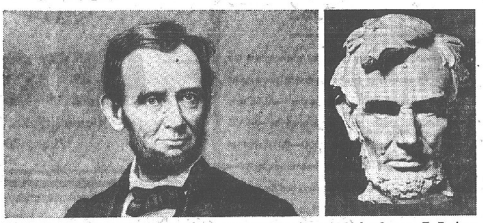


Photo at left considered to be Lincoln's finest portrait. It was taken in 1860 by Alexander Hesler, of Chicago. The start of his beard is evident in this Nov. 25, 1860 photo (right).



This is a seldom-seen likeness (left), engraved in about 1862 by George E. Perine, of New York. At right is the head of Daniel French's famous statue in the Lincoln Memorial, Washington, D.C.

FRIENDS have written that no single photograph ever captured the essential Lincoln. John Nicolay, Lincoln's private secretary, wrote: "Graphic art was powerless before a face that moved through a thousand delicate gradations of line and contour, light and shade, sparkle of the eye and curve of the lip; in the long gamut of expression from grave to gay, and back again from the rollicking jollity of laughter to that serious, faraway look with prophetic intuitions that beheld the awful panorama of war, and heard the cry of oppression and suffering. There are many pictures of Lincoln; there is no portrait of him." Here are a few of the pictures of that strange, homely, haunting, friendly face.

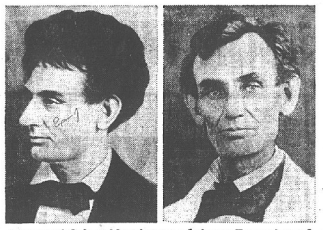


Photo at left is said to be one of the earliest taken of Lincoln. In 1839, at the age of 30, he had bushy hair and an unlined face. In 1858, he posed for the photo at right. Note the portrait's fine detail.

This Alexander Gardner portrait was taken just five days before Lincoln's death on April 14, 1865. The war years left their marks. He was 54 years old.

WILLIAM S. WHITE . . .

Voices Of Dissent Among The Democrats

WASHINGTON — The crisis is fast approaching in this country's long — and still unshaken—determination to help South Viet Nam resist Communist aggression. And so the men are fast being divided from the boys.

Communist pressure rises in and around Viet Nam. And this, plus the tragic inability of the Vietnamese themselves to sustain and run a really viable regime, is bad enough.

But far worse is the fact that every time the enemy heats up the military situation out there and the Vietnamese produce more disunity among themselves, yet another voice is raised in the United States Senate in favor of some so-called settlement or negotiation with the attackers which would mean the loss of South Viet Nam to the Communists and, at length, the loss of all Southeast Asia.

There are ironies aplenty in this state of affairs, not the least being that men like Sen. Albert Gore of Tennesse and George McGovern of South Dakota are quite willing to talk the language of pompous weakness and submission to "negotiation" at the very moment the Communists, on their side, are increasing their commitments and their determination.

Even more ironical is the more basic fact that the efforts of a Democratic President, Lyndon Johnson, to hold fast in Viet Nam to a policy of strength and resolution are being undercut most of all by his ostensible opposition, the Republicans.

At least five Democratic Senators are now on record in support of some form of negotiation with the same Communist aggressors who have made a grotesque and contemptuous jest of every previous negotiation and solemn agreement of the last 13 years. If it is not Gore or McGovern who is talking this or some equally wistful sort of nonsense, this unconscious but desperately dangerous appeasement, it is Sen. Frank Church of Idaho or Sen. Wayne Morse of Oregon or Sen. Mike Mansfield of Montana, the Democratic leader, no less, of the Senate.

For men in such positions as these to talk as they are talking, while Red China and the Soviet Union publicly vie for the privilege of aiding the assaults on South Viet Nam, is an undoubted exercise of the right of free speech.

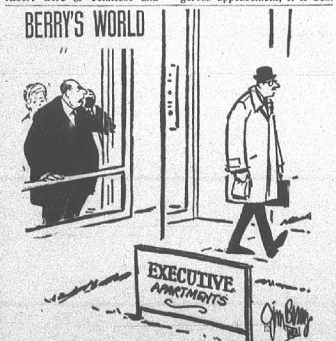
It is also an extremely dubious exercise of that right, considering that this government under three successive Administrations has seen quite clearly that you cannot "negotiate" with an armed marauder—not, at least, until he puts down his Tommy gun and quits shooting you.

Indeed, it seems that in the Democratic side of the Senate a kind of precious, artsy-craftsy neutralism is running pretty widely. It might be appropriate in some tin-pot country with no duty to the world. It might be tolerable, at any rate, in some feverish and pettish political minority which reckons any stick to be good enough to beat the majority with.

The fact here, however, is that a querulous part of the majority — of the Democratic party—is using this stick to beat not only the rest of the majority, including the President, but also the interests of the United States of America.

The proposals these men are making for "settling" this admittedly dreadfully difficult affair in South Viet Nam are in fact prescriptions for surrender, however intended. That they are being so lightly made is all but incredible — and all but incredibly irresponsible at this time and in these circumstances.

That they can be made with no more protest from more responsible members of the Senate speaks less than well for such members. And, finally, that President Johnson has at all events the support of the Republicans for a manful and (indispendable) line in Asia is, quite simply, nothing less than providential.



"I want to report one of the tenants—he carries his lunch in a brown paper bag!"

RAY CROMLEY . . .

Why Were Americans Killed At Pleiku?

WASHINGTON (NEA) — A part of the wall of one of the American barracks at Pleiku is weak. It is nailed loosely to the studs. A man can run hard against it and bust out through this section without taking the time to get to the door.

Last fall, some of us were sitting in that weak - walled room, discussing just how fast a man could get out of the barracks and into a ditch in case of a Viet Cong raid. One captain claimed he could be out and under cover before a man could count 10.

The nearby compound of the American advisory group to the Vietnamese Army Second Corps area had one of the most beautiful gardens in the province. The senior American military adviser, however, was worried about his mango tree (though he wasn't certain it was mango) and about a blight that had hit some of his flowers. He was extremely proud of his expanded PX.

The airfield was a large expense. At the barracks and the airfield, there were barbed wire and sandbags and some fences. There were gates. Guards were stationed at the gates and other key spots. There were check points along the roads.

But there were farmers going down these same roads. Any number of them could have been Viet Cong. U.S. officers were certain some of them were. We were warned not to be outside at night. When going out, I took a Nung tribesman as a bodyguard. We drove fast despite the rutty roads.

It was at the Pleiku airfield and barracks that the Communists killed seven Americans and wounded 109 on the weekend of Feb. 7.

It would have been no trick at all, when we were there, for the Viet Cong to bring mortars within firing range at night at the airfield or the compounds. It would have been easy for trained agents to slip in at night with bombs and recoilless rifles, even assuming there was no inside co-operation.

The officers we talked to knew this.

But we all slept soundly at night nevertheless.

These officers knew, and said quite frankly — at least some of them did — that there was only one way to assure safety.

That would be by aggressive night patrolling.

One officer suggested the solution. Big night patrols are no good, he said. The Viet Cong hear them and duck away, or wait until the patrols go by, then slip in. It's not practical, either, he added, to send out more than a few big patrols. This leaves big uncovered gaps. They can't cover the territory.

He argued that for lengthy perimeters like those at Pleiku, small, three - man patrols are needed. Each patrol would have a radio. They'd move silently, aggressively. With only three men in a patrol, it would be possible to have enough patrols to make the perimeter tight. Once a patrol saw something, it could break radio silence.

"Until we do something like this, we're just taking chances," said this experienced infantryman. Other officers we talked to agreed.

Why, then, didn't someone organize the small patrols, which, after all, are no novelty in the U.S. Army?

The answer to that was difficult to get. We were told the Vietnamese wouldn't patrol except in large numbers. But the Viet Cong often go out in small groups and they're Vietnamese.

General Giap, who runs the North Vietnamese Army, has made it clear what his Viet Cong are up to in attacks like those at Pleiku, Tuy Hol and Nha Trang.

First, says Giap, give the enemy trouble in and near his large cities, so that he will concentrate his forces in those areas. (South Viet Nam has now done this in the U.S.-sponsored concentrate-on-the-Saigon area movement, withdrawing forces from the Pleiku and other central Viet Nam areas.)

Then, says Giap, when the enemy has weakened his forces in the rural areas, strike there.

Giap continues: If the enemy then rushes any of his men back to the rural areas, then strike again at the cities. If he concentrates his men into key areas, hit the areas he leaves unguarded. If he then splits his men to guard a lot of small areas, then concentrate the guerrilla forces and hit these weak troop outposts.

PHIL NEWSOM . . .

Soviets In Difficult Position

In attempting to reassert its influence in Southeast Asia, the Soviet Union is carrying water on both shoulders.

On the one hand it accuses the United States of "barbarous" bombing of Laos and of threatening to extend the war to all of Indochina.

On the other there is no evidence that the Soviets seek a direct clash with the United States, and, rather, are looking ahead to a betterment of relations through a meeting of their leadership with President Johnson.

It also has been suggested that in Southeast Asia, even a United States presence is preferable to the Soviets against a takeover by Red China.

Delivers Warning

One of Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin's chief missions on his visit to North Viet Nam is believed to have been to deliver a warning to President Ho Chi Minh against action which might suddenly escalate the war in South Viet Nam out of hand.

On one phase of his trip, Kosygin seemed to have scored an important success.

That was North Viet Nam's endorsement of the Soviet coexistence policy.

Moscow felt it necessary to re-assert its position as defender of socialist countries and therefore it was expected that Kosygin would come to Hanoi bearing gifts, probably promises of anti-aircraft weapons and planes which Peking cannot supply.

Advocates Restraint

Yet it had no wish to become involved in a war not of its own choosing and in an area where it always has advocated restraint in contrast to the belligerent policies of Red China.

Ho Chi Minh has a traditional fear of Chinese intervention based on centuries of history and so has sought to keep ties open to Moscow.

But Ho's own party is split between Moscow and Peking and he has had to look increasingly to Peking as Moscow's aid declined.

The endorsement of the Soviet policy of co-existence, then, appeared to be a declaration of independence from Peking.

Moscow's ultimate aim seemed to be another Geneva conference to establish the neutrality of the whole of Viet Nam, North and South.

Calls For Conference

She already has called for such a conference to be held on Laos, a call which the United States has rejected on the grounds that it was the Communists themselves who broke the accord of 1962.

A neutral Viet Nam, as also sought by President De Gaulle of France, would have definite Soviet advantages.

It would re-establish for the Soviets a voice in Southeast Asia which they lost with the renewal of the civil war in Laos.

Violation would pose the immediate threat of U.S. intervention and serve to keep the eyes of Red China looking south instead of to territories it disputes with the Soviets in the North and West.

As for Ho Chi Minh, he has obtained neither from the Russians nor the Chinese firm promises of help in case the war should move to North Viet Nam.

Red China knows that extension of the war would lay its cities and industries hopelessly open to U.S. air attack. So far as North Viet Nam is concerned, so does Ho Chi Minh.

Almanac

By United Press International

Today is Friday, Feb. 12, the 43rd day of 1965 with 322 to follow.

The moon is approaching its full phase.

The morning star is Mars.

The evening star is Jupiter.

Abraham Lincoln was born on this day in 1809.

On this day in history:

In 1912, China became a Republic as the Manchu dynasty was overthrown by Chinese Nationalists.

In 1924, Paul Whiteman conducted a program of "symphonic jazz" in New York City with George Gershwin playing his "Rhapsody in Blue."

In 1953, Russia broke diplomatic relations with Israel after terrorists bombed the Soviet legation in Tel Aviv.