

## Abraham Lincoln papers

Abraham Lincoln, Draft Resolutions for the Illinois General Assembly<sup>1</sup>, [1855]

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1 This document is a set of draft resolutions, drawn up by Lincoln in response to the Kansas-Nebraska Act, to be introduced into the Illinois General Assembly early in 1855. It would appear to be a revision and refinement of an earlier, more alarmist version of these resolutions. See Abraham Lincoln, Draft Resolutions for the Illinois General Assembly concerning Repeal of the Kansas-Nebraska Act [1855].

Resolved by the People of the State of Illinois represented in the General Assembly:

That our Senators in Congress be instructed, and our Representatives requested, as follows, towit

1 To use their utmost endeavors to repeal so much of the fourteenth, and thirty second Sections of the act of Congress, entitled "an act to organize the Territories of Nebraska and Kansas"<sup>2</sup> Approved as is found in the words following, towit —

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2 Sections 14 and 32 of the Kansas-Nebraska Act are identical, applying respectively to the territories of Nebraska and Kansas. Each calls for the repeal of Section 8 of the Missouri Compromise, which prohibited slavery North of latitude 36 30', in the Louisiana country, exclusive of the state of Missouri.

[Space for insertion of text.]

2— To use their utmost endeavors to procure the revival, and re-enactment, of the eighth Section of the act preparatory to the admission of Missouri into the Union, approved, March sixth eighteen hundred and twenty—<sup>3</sup>

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3 Section 8 of the Missouri Compromise prohibited the introduction of slavery into that portion of the Louisiana county north of latitude 36 degrees, 30 minutes north, exclusive of the state of Missouri.

3— To use their utmost endeavors to prevent the said Territories of Nebraska and Kansas, or either of them, or any part of either of them, ever coming into the Union as a Slave-state, or states—

4 To use their utmost endeavors to prevent domestic slavery ever being established in any country, or place, where it does not now legally exist—

5— To resist, to their utmost, the now threatened attempt to divide California, in order to erect one portion thereof into a Slave-state—<sup>4</sup>

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4 Such an effort to divide California could only have been initiated within the state of California.

6. To resist, to their utmost, the now threatened attempt to revive the African slave-trade—<sup>5</sup>

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5 The reopening of the African slave trade was agitated somewhat in the South in the mid-to-late 1850's.