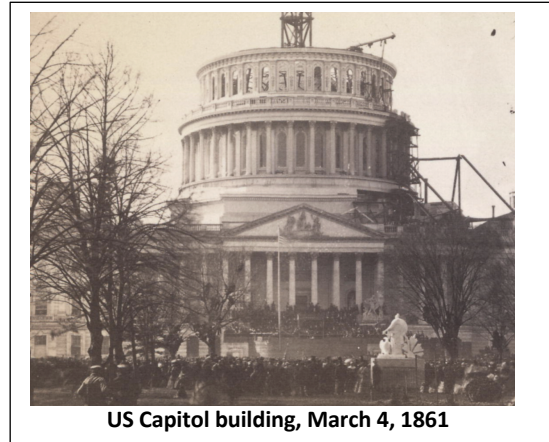


Lincoln's Secession Crisis, and Ours

March 4, 1861

“Plainly the central idea of secession is the essence of anarchy. A majority held in restraint by constitutional checks and limitations, and always changing easily with deliberate changes of popular opinions and sentiments, is the only true sovereign of a free people. Whoever rejects it does of necessity fly to anarchy or to despotism. Unanimity is impossible.”

–**Abraham Lincoln, Inaugural Address, Monday, March 4, 1861**



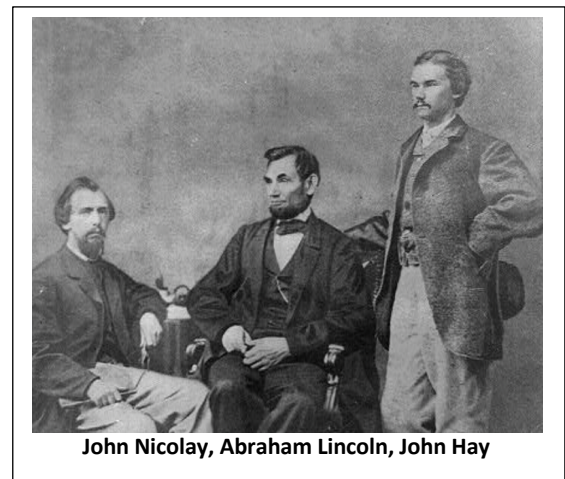
US Capitol building, March 4, 1861

May 7, 1861

“I went in to give the President some little items of Illinois news...I spoke of the position of Browning to subjugate the South, establish a black republic in lieu of exterminated whites, and extend a protectorate over them, while they raised our cotton. He said, Some of our northerners seem bewildered and dazzled by the excitement of the hour.”

...[Lincoln then said] “There may be one consideration used in stay of such final judgement, but that is not for us to use in advance. That is, that there exists in our case, an instance of a vast and far reaching disturbing element, which the history of no other free nation will probably ever present. That however is not for us to say at present. Taking the government as we found it, we will see if the majority can preserve it.”

–**Lincoln quoted in John Hay diary, Tuesday, May 7, 1861**



John Nicolay, Abraham Lincoln, John Hay