

Journal Divided – “Make No Contracts”

Excerpt from Chapter 15 of Michael Burlingame’s *Abraham Lincoln: A Life* (pgs 1680-1684)

Link to full Chapter Fifteen

<http://www.knox.edu/documents/pdfs/LincolnStudies/Burlingame,%20Vol%201,%20Chap%2015.pdf>

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Cameron’s statement may have been disingenuous. To be sure, he had told Seward he would back him, but on May 10, Casey wrote the Chief from Chicago that if he could not be nominated, the Keystone State delegation would go for Seward “unless we are satisfied that we can do better for our State, by the arrangement we spoke of when I last saw you.” The terms of that arrangement are unknown, but evidently Cameron was willing to abandon Seward if he could obtain a better deal for Pennsylvania and himself.¹ Seward’s confidential friends were, according to Casey, “overbearing and refused to talk of any thing but his unconditional nomination.”¹⁷⁸ ²If Weed had been more flexible, Seward may have won.

Norman B. Judd’s son remembered his father describing a deal that gave Cameron an unspecified cabinet post in exchange for Pennsylvania’s votes.³

¹ On May 10, Casey wrote to Cameron saying: “If the party are willing to pass over Mr. Seward its great representative Republican and take a man for expediency for the sake (principally) of carrying Penna. they must take Penna’s choice – If they refuse to do that, it will look as if they do not care for Penna. & then we are for Seward – unless we are satisfied that we can do better for our State, by the arrangement we spoke of when I last saw you.” Joseph Casey to Cameron, Chicago, 10 May 1860, Cameron Papers, Library of Congress.

² Walter G. Sharrow, “William Henry Seward: A Study in Nineteenth Century Politics and Nationalism, 1855-1861” (Ph.D. thesis, University of Rochester, 1964), 260; Joseph Casey to Simon Cameron, Harrisburg, 23 May 1860, Cameron Papers, Dauphin County Historical Society, Harrisburg.

³ Judd’s son Edward, recalling a story he heard his father tell many times, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, 6 February 1916.