## Abraham Lincoln to John M. Palmer

September 7, 1854

(CONFIDENTIAL) Hon. J. M. Palmer. Springfield, Dear Sir. Sept. 7. 1854

You know how anxious I am that this Nebraska measure shall be rebuked and condemned every where. Of course I hope something from your position; yet I do not expect you to do any thing which may be wrong in your own judgment; nor would I have you do anything personally injurious to yourself. You are, and always have been, honestly, and sincerely a democrat; and I know how painful it must be to an honest sincere man, to be urged by his party to the support of a measure, which on his conscience he believes to be wrong. You have had a severe struggle with yourself, and you have determined not to swallow the wrong. Is it not just to yourself that you should, in a few public speeches, state your reasons, and thus justify yourself? I wish you would; and yet I say ``dont do it, if you think it will injure you." You may have given your word to vote for Major Harris, and if so, of course you will stick to it. But allow me to suggest that you should avoid speaking of this; for

(Confidential) Springfieler, ships 7. 1854 Hom. J. Mr. Palmer Dear Sir. ~ know how anxions I am that this Nelsaska messaw place he related and condenand every when-I cours I hope something for your position; yet I are not expect you to do any thing thele may be wrong in your judgment; moramen I have you do sugthing personally inju need- you and and slowage han acret; gnow of know how to an honest sincer man for at format he argen to the pappon of arong-1 has a peren strugger with gomself. have actemined not to swallow the arong as it not gast to gowery that you planed, in for public speeches, state your reason, and younsel? I write you would; and doni no it of you think I will you may he ne given your array to ~ 4 major Harms on shew to to- But allow me that you phone avoir speaking

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## Abraham Lincoln to John M. Palmer, continued

it probably would induce some of your friends, in like manner, to cast their votes. You understand. And now let me beg your pardon for obtruding this letter upon you, to whom I have ever been opposed in politics. Had your party omitted to make Nebraska a test of party fidelity; you probably would have been the Democratic candidate for congress in the district. You deserved it, and I believe it would have been given you. In that case I should have been quit, happy that Nebraska was to be rebuked at all events. I still should have voted for the whig candidate; but I should have made no speeches, written no letters; and you would have been elected by at least a thousand majority.

Yours truly A. LINCOLN—

[7 Seep. 1854.] it probably worker maner por of your like manney to can't their roton of for an And now let me kay your paracor for obtinding this later afor you, to whom I have Have your party ometers opposed no polities et; make Nalasha fert you prohably wonlow he 15 on the district - you Compress a I fale , it would have ~ du the care I show hear quite happy that Alan ha a have way to be related at get greaty- I still shores here volice for the why canacianty; but I shored made no speecher, written wola have been pleased fetter: atons. at feart a yout

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