December 14, 1934

Dear Everett Case:

Lincoln was born a Democrat, but sometime between 1827 and 1830 he became a Whig. The authority for this is his garrulous cousin, Dennis Hanks. Beveridge makes the best use of Hanks' manuscripts on this point (Volume I, Page 96)

Beveridge has, too, written the most satisfactory account of Lincoln's position on the National bank. It was a lively issue in the Illinois legislature in his first term - 1834-35. (Volume I, Page 166 et sq) And he was pronouncedly for the bank although I do not remember that he made any speeches, only voted. In December of '39 he did make an important speech in the legislature of which you will find an excellent analysis in Beveridge, Volume I, Page 258. Indeed Beveridge is the only Lincoln biographer who has handled Lincoln's position on the National bank and on the State bank of Illinois satisfactorily. If he does not give you all that you want he will give you the sources from which you can complete your study.

You ask about Bill Green as an authority - the best of his kind. A substantial pioneer, shrewd and kindly - a warm and honest friend of Lincoln.

My own notion is that Lincoln had turned from Jackson to Clay before he went to New Salem and that he had been influenced largely by Clay's attitude on the slavery question. In this connection you will be interested perhaps in reading his eulogy of Clay made in 1852 - by no means a first class address, though undoubtedly an honest expression of his feeling for Clay.

I hope this will be of some use to you. It is a pleasant to have you write for any reason whatever. I hope one of these days I shall be around Boston and if so I shall do my best to have a look at the two Josephines. Please give them my love.

Cordially yours and a best wish for a Merry Christmas

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