

December 31, 1937

Dear Mr. Hay:

I think I have never had an invitation I found harder to decline than yours of December twenty fourth. I know of course about the annual observance of Lincoln's Birthday by The Abraham Lincoln Association. I think I have all the programs and I have always been envious of those who could be present.

Your invitation honors me and it is nothing but the fact that I am under the strictest orders of my physician to do no travelling or speaking for the rest of the winter that forces me to decline. Please do not think, dear Mr. Hay, that this means I have gone into a decline - far from it. It seems that I to my great humiliation am obliged to take certain precautions to keep out of the decline. I have had a rather bad year and a half - broken bones and neuritis and sciatica - miserable companions. And never in the world would I mention this but I want you to know that I have what I am forced to consider a compelling reason. I am sure you will understand and recognize that it is necessity and not in defense that compels me to give up what I know would be for me an occasion of great moment.

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Just as soon as I am quite myself again and have wiped out a mounting pile of work I am coming out to Illinois for a Lincoln tour. I shall want to hear from you a good deal more than I know about what the Abraham Lincoln Association has done. I am very keen for this little pilgrimage and hope that I can make it before another birthday comes around.

With deep appreciation of the honor you do me in this invitation and with deep regret that I cannot accept it, believe me, dear Mr. Hay

Very sincerely yours

Mr. Logan Hay
Springfield, Illinois