

February 26, 1934

Dear Mr. Tausek:

I have your note of February 21st saying that you have found a reference in Nicolay and Hay to the epigram you are trying to trace. I have had it in mind since you wrote me that my authority was Nicolay and Hay, but I could not put my finger on the spot. You say you find it in Volume III, in referring to a speech made at Clinton on September 8, 1958. Could you tell me the page? My Nicolay and Hay is the first edition of the former Century Company.

You ask if I ever had access to the Herndon-Weik material? I have the catalogue of the material, some fourteen hundred pieces, each with an explanatory note sufficient to give one, familiar with Lincoln literature, an idea of its contents. I knew Weik fairly well, but never examined his material. It seemed to me wiser to use my time collecting material from those that Herndon had not interviewed. As you know use has been repeatedly made of these papers by biographers. First Lamon whose volume is entirely founded on this material; then Herndon, himself, in his three volume edition; then the two volume edition edited by Weik; then Weik in the book he calls, "The Real Lincoln." Beveridge, also had access to these papers and used them freely.

The only section of the papers which has not been fully digested, at least so it seems to me, is that referring to legal matters, though all the most important cases have been reported by Herndon and others with these papers as their base. I have no doubt, however, that a serious student could taking this whole mass of legal papers and produce a fresh and interesting study.

Hertz makes altogether too large a claim for them. I was amazed at his article in the Times. I do not

understand that he owns the papers. I rather think that what he is trying to do is to sell them. They should go to the Congressional Library for after the Robert Lincoln collection they are the most important of original documents in existence, and I should dislike to see them scattered.

The most important part of the collection probably is that referring to Lincoln's daily life.

Pardon this very long letter.

Very truly yours

Mr. Joseph Tausak
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