The Chicago Tribune.

BUSINESS DEPARTMENT.

In reply to yours of_____

Chicago, June 9th 1896

Dear Miss Tarbell.

Replying to your note of 2 inst. I have no recollection of ever having seen or heard of Leonard Swett's letter to Josiah A. Drummond. You ask me who is the Letter. At the time Mr S. wrote to him he was residing in Maimond holding a State office perhaps Auditor of State. He was a College Chum of Mr Swett. They were both Natives of Maine. Mr Swett's Narrative of the Chicago Convention of 1860 which nominated Mr Lincoln is pretty well written and may be accepted as a substantially true account as far as he was in a position to see and understand the inner working which resulted in Mr Lincoln's nomination.

Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

2

The Chicago Tribune.
BUSINESS DEPARTMENT.

In reply to yours of_____ Chicago, _____ 189__

It is true that several of the Illinois delegates preferred Seward as their first choice, as he had a great National reputation as an anti-Slavery man, while Lincoln had a great local reputation as a free lance. My recollection is that there were 7 Seward delegates, 3 or 4 of them were Germans, who had been captivated by Seward's anti Slavery utterances; but the delegation resolved to vote as a unit. But as second choice each of the 7 S. men were strongly for Lincoln.*

It is true that the 25 or 30 Abolition Counties of Illinois were very radical on the Slavery question. Gen Grant lived in one of them — Jo Daviess Co.

* On reflection it was the State Convention which decided to vote as a unit and work for Lincoln.

Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

The Chicago Tribune.

BUSINESS DEPARTMENT.

In reply to yours of_____

Chicago, _____ 189__

Mr Swett was a very prominent lawyer and politician for many years in this State. He came near being nominated for Governor. His letter would make a valuable chapter in your collection of Original Lincoln Literature.

Very truly yours

Joseph Medill

P.S. Mr Swett is quite mistaken in his statement that but few Illinois men attending the Chicago Convention were actively for Lincoln. There were thousands present and doing their utmost. The city swarmed with them. Chicago itself was overwhelmingly for him. Had the popular sentiment been cold Seward would have defeated him. There was a great Illinois ground swell for Lincoln.

Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944. Allegheny College Pelletier Library