

May 4, 1926

Miss Anna A. Peach
Elkton, Md.

My dear Madam:

I have your letter of April 26, asking me if I ever made the statement that Abraham Lincoln in 1860 declared "I will free the slaves even to the force of arms if necessary."

No, I did not, nor can anyone else make it truthfully. Mr. Lincoln was opposed to the extension of slavery. He recognized its legal existence in the States where the Constitution had left it. He repeatedly for years opposed the agitation in favor of the abolition of slavery. He consented to emancipation finally only as a war measure.

Very truly yours