

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

PRINTED BY ORDER OF

THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1861.



AUGUSTA:
STEVENS & SAYWARD, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.
1861.

FORTIETH LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

No. 16.

To the Senate and House of Representatives :

I herewith transmit Joint Resolutions of the Illinois State Legislature, requesting the Governor of that State to appoint Commissioners to the Convention now in session at Washington, upon the invitation of the State of Virginia.

ISRAEL WASHBURN, JR.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, }
Council Chamber, Feb. 23, 1861. }

Joint Resolutions of Illinois State Legislature.

WHEREAS, Resolutions of the State of Virginia have been communicated to the General Assembly of this State, proposing the appointment of Commissioners, by the several States, to meet in Convention on the 4th day of February, A. D. 1861, at Washington,

Resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring herein, That with the earnest desire for the return of harmony and kind relations among all our sister States, and our respect to the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Governor of this State be requested to appoint five Commissioners on the part of the State of Illinois, to confer and consult with the Commissioners of other States, who shall meet at Washington, provided, that said Commissioners shall at all times be subject to the control of the General Assembly of the State of Illinois.

Resolved, That the appointment of Commissioners by the State of Illinois, in response to the invitation of the State of Virginia, is not an expression of opinion on the part of this State, that any amendment of the Federal Constitution is requisite to secure to the people of the slaveholding States adequate guarantees for the security of their rights, nor an approval of the basis of settlement of our difficulties proposed by the State of Virginia, but it is an expression of our willingness to unite with the State of Virginia in an earnest effort to adjust the present unhappy controversies in the spirit in which the Constitution was originally framed, and consistently with its principles.

Resolved, That while we are willing to appoint Commissioners to meet in Convention with those of other States for consultation upon matters which at present distract our harmony as a nation, we also insist that the appropriate and constitutional method of considering and acting upon the grievances complained of by our sister state, would be by the call of a Convention for the amendment of

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the Constitution in the manner contemplated by the 5th article of that instrument; and if the States deeming themselves aggrieved shall request Congress to call such Convention, the Legislature of Illinois will and does concur in such call.

SHELBY M. CULLOM,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

FRANCIS A. HOFFMAN,

President of the Senate.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, February 25, 1861.

On motion of Mr. BENSON of Penobscot, the Resolutions of the Illinois Legislature were laid on the table, and ordered to be printed for the use of the Legislature.

JAMES M. LINCOLN, *Secretary*.