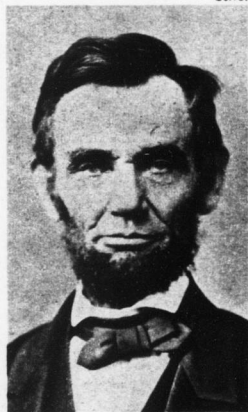


Culver



# If Lincoln Were Alive Today...

*A unique interview. Five Lincoln experts tell you how  
the great President of a century ago would have felt  
and acted if confronted with the problems of our time*

WHAT WOULD ABRAHAM LINCOLN do if he were alive today? Thousands of people have asked that question, and more perhaps are asking it this year than ever before. A hundred years ago Lincoln was facing and mastering the terrific problems of his own day. How would he have attacked the problems that confront this country in the age of space and missiles? Would he have approved of most of the policies our leaders have been following, or would he have struck out in radically different directions?

We've undertaken to find out by interviewing five of the most distinguished authorities on Lincoln and his times: poet-biographer *Carl Sandburg*, who will discuss Lincoln on "CBS Reports" next Thursday; *Bruce Catton*, editor of "American Heritage" and author of "This Hallowed Ground," etc.; *T. Harry Williams*, professor of history at Louisiana State University and author of "Lincoln And His Generals"; *Ralph G. Newman*, editor of "Lincoln For The Ages," and *Lenoir Chambers*, recently retired editor of "The Norfolk Virginian-Pilot" and Civil War historian.

Below, in question and answer form, is our interview with the Lincoln experts. — THE EDITORS

**Q. Would Lincoln be a Republican or a Democrat today?**

**A.** We took this question to all five of our experts. Here's what they said: Lincoln today would make his home in the liberal wing of the Republican Party.

*Bruce Catton:* "Lincoln would have been a Republican — not a hidebound, ultra-conservative, but a liberal, experimental Republican, feeling he could carry out any reforms he wanted within the framework of the Republican Party — provided he could get willing co-operation from the Democrats as well."

*Carl Sandburg* pointed out that in Lincoln's last campaign in 1864 he ran on the ticket of the National Union Party. "Lincoln wanted a party to which all Union men would belong, whether formerly Republican or Democrat," said Mr. Sandburg. "President Lincoln was first of all a Union man and only incidentally a Republican Party man."

*T. Harry Williams* thought Lincoln would be a "liberal Republican" or perhaps a "conservative Democrat." Lincoln, Professor Williams commented, "was essentially a pragmatist, recognizing the limits of human nature and believing in the right changes at the right time."

*Ralph Newman* thought Lincoln would be a Republican of the type of Senator Margaret Chase Smith of Maine or Senator Clifford Case of New Jersey.

*Lenoir Chambers*, noting that Lincoln came from "Republican territory," commented that given the same geographic background today he would doubtless be a Republican still. But Mr. Chambers agreed with the other experts that Lincoln would not be an extreme conservative.

**Q. Would Lincoln have dropped the atomic bomb on Japan?**

*A. Carl Sandburg:* There is a school of thought which holds that the Emperor and war lords of Japan could have been notified of a demonstration to be made on some mountain or valley showing the terrible power of the atomic bomb in human slaughter on a wide area. There are reputable Army and Navy men who hold this viewpoint. However, let us permit our imagination to conceive of Lincoln free of his Springfield tomb and resident in the White House, as Chief Executive, in the year 1945, and before him the reports from the War Department on the estimated casualties of 500,000 to be expected in an invasion of Japan. For myself, I believe Lincoln would probably have made the same decision as President Harry Truman.

In a short autobiography, he wrote that as a boy he had shot and killed a wild turkey, and "I have not pulled trigger on bigger game since." An Indiana man at the White House heard him say, "Voorhees, don't it seem strange to you that I, who could never so much as cut off the head of a chicken, should be elected, or selected, into the midst of all this blood?" While the war was on he was photographed many times, and his face at all times had the look of a sad man. Having the look of a man familiar with sorrow,

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