

The

NSC FOGHORN™



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Our Web Site is at <http://www.nevadaseniors.com>

January 13, 2011

Special points of interest:

Health Ranking of States

This annual ranking measures residents of all 50 states on 22 activities that can predict future health, such as smoking and exercise, and events that already occurred, like death and violent crime

2010	2009	State
1	1	VT
2	3	MA
3	4	NH
4	7	CT
5	5	HI
6	6	UT
7	2	MN
8	9	UT
9	14	ID
10	10	RI
47	45	NV
50	50	MS

<http://statehealthstats.americashealthrankings.org/>

Inside This Issue

<i>Five Myths About Secession</i>	2
<i>Please Don't Quote Me</i>	3
Illegal Immigration	4
<i>Five Myths About Secession</i>	5
Members Page	6
Medicare Fraud Control Unit	7
Meeting Information	7
Today in History	8
About NSC	8

*** GOOD LUCK NEVADA ***

By Vernon W. Perry NSC Vice President

The Nevada Legislature will start their 76th session on February 9, 2011. They are faced with trying to solve a major budget problem that they have been essentially ignoring for the many years that it has been building up (similar to the national mess we are in). The budget shortfall, in the next two year period, has been report to be somewhere between \$1.5 billion to \$3 billion. Every Nevadan will be effected by the impact this will have on their daily lives – jobs, taxes, fees, state and local services and programs, etc.

Last year Nevada received around \$800 million in stimulus funds from the Feds, which they will not get this year, and government employees' annual raises of \$500 million might have to be reinstated. And to top it off, on June 30th temporary furlough arrangements, wage cuts and tax extensions will expire.

The Band-Aid has come off and the artery is spurting blood.

Another very important challenge this legislature will have is re-districting the state for the next ten years. There will be a lot of horse trading with this issue. There are indications that re-districting will involve increasing the number of rural Assembly and Senate Districts to protect those voters from us guys. Also there will be a fourth US House District to be figured out. The gerrymandering should be phenomenal with the party leaders trying to ensure that their underlings have a large advantage in the general election.

Good luck to Governor Sandoval and the Nevada Legislature and God help the people of Nevada.



2007

Five myths about why the South seceded

By James W. Loewen

Sunday, January 9, 2011; 12:00 AM

One hundred and fifty years after the Civil War began, we're still fighting it -- or at least fighting over its history. I've polled thousands of high school history teachers and spoken about the war to audiences across the country, and there is little agreement even on why the South seceded. Was it over slavery? States' rights? Tariffs and taxes?

As the nation begins to commemorate the anniversaries of the war's various battles -- from Fort Sumter to Appomattox -- let's first dispense with some of the more prevalent myths about why it all began.

1. The South seceded over states' rights.

Confederate states did claim the right to secede, but no state claimed to be seceding for that right. In fact, Confederates opposed states' rights -- that is, the right of Northern states not to support slavery. On Dec. 24, 1860, delegates at South Carolina's secession convention adopted a "Declaration of the Immediate Causes Which Induce and Justify the Secession of South Carolina from the Federal Union." It noted "an increasing hostility on the part of the non-slaveholding States to the institution of slavery" and protested that Northern states had failed to "fulfill their constitutional obligations" by interfering with the return of fugitive slaves to bondage. Slavery, not states' rights, birthed the Civil War.

South Carolina was further upset that New York no longer allowed "slavery transit." In the past, if Charleston gentry wanted to spend August in the Hamptons, they could bring their cook along. No longer -- and South Carolina's delegates were outraged. In addition, they objected that New England states let black men vote and tolerated abolitionist societies. According to South Carolina, states should not have the right to let their citizens assemble and speak freely when what they said threatened slavery.

Other seceding states echoed South Carolina. "Our position is thoroughly identified with the institution of slavery -- the greatest material interest of the world," proclaimed Mississippi in its own secession declaration, passed Jan. 9, 1861. "Its labor supplies the product which constitutes by far the largest and most important portions of the commerce of the earth. . . . A blow at slavery is a blow at commerce and civilization."

The South's opposition to states' rights is not surprising. Until the Civil War, Southern presidents and lawmakers had dominated the federal government. The people in power in Washington always oppose states' rights. Doing so preserves their own.

2. Secession was about tariffs and taxes.

During the nadir of post-civil-war race relations - the terrible years after 1890 when town after town across the North became all-white "sundown towns" and state after state across the South prevented African Americans from voting - "anything but slavery" explanations of the Civil War gained traction. To this day Confederate sympathizers successfully float this false claim, along with their preferred name for the conflict: the War Between the States. At the infamous Secession Ball in South Carolina, hosted in December by the Sons of Confederate Veterans, "the main reasons for secession were portrayed as high tariffs and Northern states using Southern tax money to build their own infrastructure," The Washington Post reported.

These explanations are flatly wrong. High tariffs had prompted the Nullification Crisis in 1831-33, when, after South Carolina demanded the right to nullify federal laws or secede in protest, President Andrew Jackson threatened force. No state joined the movement, and South Carolina backed down. Tariffs were not an issue in 1860, and Southern states said nothing about them. Why would they? Southerners had written the tariff of 1857, under which the nation was functioning. Its rates were lower than at any point since 1816.

3. Most white Southerners didn't own slaves, so they wouldn't secede for slavery.

Indeed, most white Southern families had no slaves. Less than half of white Mississippi households owned one or more slaves, for example, and that proportion was smaller still in whiter states such as Virginia and Tennessee. It is also true that, in areas with few slaves, most white Southerners did not support secession. West Virginia seceded from Virginia to stay with the Union, and Confederate troops had to occupy parts of eastern Tennessee and northern Alabama to hold them in line.

However, two ideological factors caused most Southern whites, including those who were not slave-owners, to defend slavery. First, Americans are wondrous optimists, looking to the upper class and expecting to join it someday. In 1860, many subsistence farmers aspired to become large slave-owners. So poor white Southerners supported slavery then, just as many low-income people support the extension of George W. Bush's tax cuts for the

Continued on Page 5

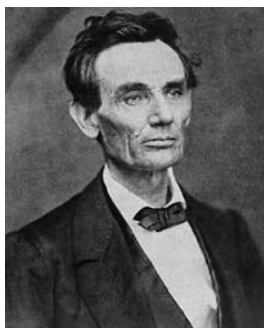
“Please Don’t Quote Me”

2011 marks the 150th Anniversary of the start of the Civil War (War Between the States) which started on April 12, 1861 when confederate forces attacked Fort Sumter in South Carolina. Lincoln responded by calling for a volunteer army from each state to recapture federal property. This led to declarations of secession by four slave states. Previously seven states had declared their secession from the Union before Lincoln took office on March 4, 1861.

At least 618,000 Americans died in the Civil War, and some experts say the toll reached 700,000. The number that is most often quoted is 620,000. At any rate, these casualties exceed the nation's loss in all its other wars, from the Revolution through Afghanistan..

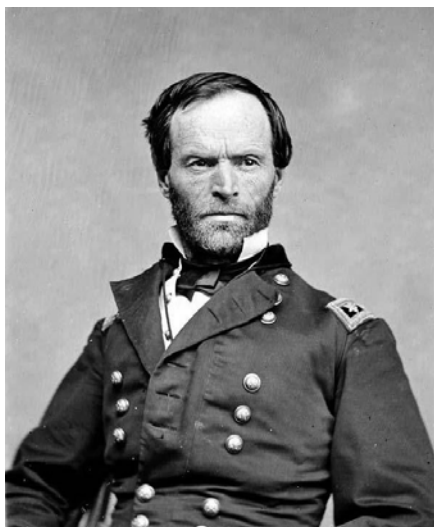
I will devote some of all of the issues of this year’s *The Foghorn* to this war.

Pre-war Quotes



"When the white man governs himself, that is self-government; but when he governs himself and also governs another man, that is more than self-government, that is despotism."

- Abraham Lincoln, speaking in October 1854



"You people of the South don't know what you are doing. This country will be drenched in blood, and God only knows how it will end. It is folly, madness, a crime against civilization! You people speak so lightly of war; you don't know what you're talking about. War is a terrible thing! You mistake too, the people of the North. They are a peaceable people but an earnest people, and they will fight too. They are not going to let this country be destroyed without a mightily effort to save it... Besides, where are your man and appliances of war to contend against them? The North can make a steam engine, locomotive or railway car, hardly a yard of cloth or a pair of shoes can you make. You are rushing into war with one of the most powerful, ingeniously mechanical people on earth - right at your doors. You are bound to fail. Only in your spirit and your determination are you prepared for war. In all else you are totally unprepared, with a bad cause to start with. At first you will make headway, but as your limited resources begin to fail, shut out from the markets of Europe as you will be, your cause will begin to wane. If your people will but stop and think, they must see that in the end you will surely fail."

- William Tecumseh Sherman, speaking in December 1860

IMMIGRATION POLL

America is a country divided about those working illegally within its borders, with a majority believing that immigration has a negative effect in the U.S., according to a new national poll.

The survey, by Vision Critical and Angus Reid Public Opinion, found 56 percent of a belief that illegal immigrants take jobs away from Americans, while only 34 percent answered that the immigrants take jobs that American workers do not want.

"All things considered, do you think immigration is having a positive effect or a negative effect in the U.S.?" the poll asked.

Just 18 percent said a positive effect - 8 percent of Republicans, 19 percent of Independents and 28 percent of Democrats. Fifty-seven percent answered a negative effect. A full 25 percent were unsure.

The poll found, however, that the attitudes of respondents "have softened" since hot debate last summer over Arizona's immigration law.

A key question asked which statements on illegal immigrants, currently working in the United States, came closest to the views of those being polled.

Thirty-one percent agreed with the statement: "They should be allowed to stay in the U.S. and eventually apply for citizenship." A yawning partisan divide was evident: 48 percent of Democrats agreed with the statement, 31 percent of Independents, but just 13 percent of Republicans.

An additional 15 percent concurred with the option: "They should be allowed to work in the U.S. on a temporary basis, but they should not become citizens."

The largest number of those polled, 43 percent, want illegal immigrants gone, agreeing to the statement: "They should be required to leave their jobs and be deported from the U.S."

The pro-deportation statement drew agreement from 61 percent of Republicans, 42 percent of Independents, and 30 percent of Democrats.

Another 11 percent were unsure.

But pro-deportation opinion has lost support, falling from 50 percent in July to 43 percent in December.

"Two in five Americans (39 percent) think the number of legal immigrants who are allowed to relocate in the U.S. should decrease, while only 15 percent favor an increase," the pollster reported.

Provisions of the Arizona law continue to enjoy wide public support.

Sixty-five percent agreed with requiring state and local police to determine the status of a person if there is "reasonable suspicion" that he or she is illegally in the United States.

Seventy-two percent would make it a crime to transport someone who is an illegal immigrant: By a 56 percent-to-33 percent margin, those surveyed would make it a crime to hire day laborers off the street.

The survey of 1005 American adults was taken Dec. 16 and 17, and has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.1 percent..

Continued from Page 2

wealthy now.

Second and more important, belief in white supremacy provided a rationale for slavery. As the French political theorist Montesquieu observed wryly in 1748: "It is impossible for us to suppose these creatures [enslaved Africans] to be men; because allowing them to be men, a suspicion would follow that we ourselves are not Christians." Given this belief, most white Southerners -- and many Northerners, too -- could not envision life in black-majority states such as South Carolina and Mississippi unless blacks were in chains. Georgia Supreme Court Justice Henry Benning, trying to persuade the Virginia Legislature to leave the Union, predicted race war if slavery was not protected. "The consequence will be that our men will be all exterminated or expelled to wander as vagabonds over a hostile earth, and as for our women, their fate will be too horrible to contemplate even in fancy." Thus, secession would maintain not only slavery but the prevailing ideology of white supremacy as well.

4. Abraham Lincoln went to war to end slavery.

Since the Civil War did end slavery, many Americans think abolition was the Union's goal. But the North initially went to war to hold the nation together. Abolition came later.

On Aug. 22, 1862, President Lincoln wrote a letter to the New York Tribune that included the following passage: "If I could save the Union without freeing any slave, I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves, I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone, I would also do that. What I do about slavery and the colored race, I do because I believe it helps to save the Union; and what I forbear, I forbear because I do not believe it would help to save the Union."

However, Lincoln's own anti-slavery sentiment was widely known at the time. In the same letter, he went on: "I have here stated my purpose according to my view of official duty; and I intend no modification of my oft-expressed personal wish that all men every where could be free." A month later, Lincoln combined official duty and private wish in his preliminary Emancipation Proclamation.

White Northerners' fear of freed slaves moving north then caused Republicans to lose the Midwest in the congressional elections of November 1862.

Gradually, as Union soldiers found help from black civilians in the South and black recruits impressed white units with their bravery, many soldiers -- and those they wrote home to -- became abolitionists. By 1864, when Maryland voted to end slavery, soldiers' and sailors' votes made the difference.

5. The South couldn't have made it long as a slave society.

Slavery was hardly on its last legs in 1860. That year, the South produced almost 75 percent of all U.S. exports. Slaves were worth more than all the manufacturing companies and railroads in the nation. No elite class in history has ever given up such an immense interest voluntarily. Moreover, Confederates eyed territorial expansion into Mexico and Cuba. Short of war, who would have stopped them - or forced them to abandon slavery?

To claim that slavery would have ended of its own accord by the mid-20th century is impossible to disprove but difficult to accept. In 1860, slavery was growing more entrenched in the South. Unpaid labor makes for big profits, and the Southern elite was growing ever richer. Freeing slaves was becoming more and more difficult for their owners, as was the position of free blacks in the United States, North as well as South. For the foreseeable future, slavery looked secure. Perhaps a civil war was required to end it.

As we commemorate the sesquicentennial of that war, let us take pride this time - as we did not during the centennial - that secession on slavery's behalf failed.

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Sociologist James W. Loewen is the author of "Lies My Teacher Told Me" and co-editor, with Edward Sebesta, of "The Confederate and Neo-Confederate Reader."



At the November Meeting

The speaker was from NVEnergy.
The subject was Smart Meters

Members

Renewing Members:

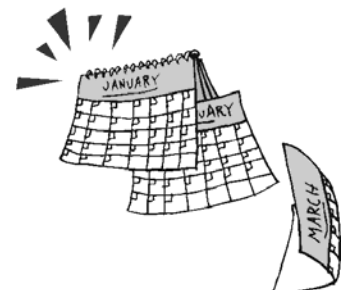
- *Linda Marshall***
- *John Tobin***

Thanks for your continued support!



Your membership anniversary date is on the Foghorn Mailing label. If the label is RED, please renew your membership, either by mail, or at the next meeting you attend. Your name is removed from the membership list 90 days after expiration.

Membership dues are \$10.00 per person.



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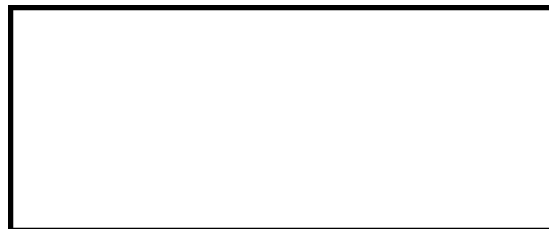
Ken Mahal Liaison

January 13, 1861

Washington, D. C,
January 13, 1861.

Governor F. W. Pickens,

My dear sir: A serious and sudden attack of neuralgia has prevented me from fulfilling my promise to communicate more fully by mail than could safely be done by telegraph. I need hardly say to you that a request for a conference on questions of defense had to me the force of a command; it, however, found me under a proposition from the Governor of Mississippi, to send me as a commissioner to Virginia, and another to employ me in the organization of the State militia. But more than all, I was endeavoring to secure the defeat of the nomination of a foreign collector for the port of Charleston, and at that time it was deemed possible that in the Senate we could arrest all hostile legislation such as might be designed either for the immediate or future coercion of the South. It now appears that we shall lack one or two votes to effect the legislative object just mentioned, and it was decided last evening, in a conference which I was not able to attend, that the Senators of the seceded States should promptly withdraw upon the telegraphic information already received. I am still confined to my bed, but hope soon to be up again, and, at as early a day as practicable, to see you. I cannot place any confidence in the adherence of the administration to a fixed line of policy. The general tendency is to hostile measures, and against these it is needful for you to prepare. I take it for granted that the time allowed to the garrison of Fort Sumter has been diligently employed by yourselves, so that before you could be driven out of your earthworks you will be able to capture the fort which commands them. I have not sufficiently learned your policy in relation to the garrison



The Nevada Seniors Coalition, Inc (NSC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization. No person is excluded on the basis of race, sex, religion or national origin.

The organization's purpose is to promote the physical and social welfare of senior citizens, their children and grandchildren.

The organizations' goals and objectives are:

- Improvement of political and governmental institutions and processes on local, state and federal levels.
- Identify legislative trends at all levels and set NSC priorities.
- Support domestic policies responsive to the needs and will of the Nevada senior population.
- Work to involve more seniors in government. to assure government is open, responsive and accountable.
- Keep members and the general public informed on current issues affecting them. Encourage them to make their voices heard at all government levels.
- Work with other organizations in a common endeavor when their issues and programs coincide with those of NSC.

at Fort Sumter, to understand whether the expectation is to compel them to capitulate for want of supplies, or whether it is only to prevent the transmission of reports and the receipt of orders. To shut them up with a view to starve them into submission would create a sympathetic action much greater than any which could be obtained on the present issue. I doubt very much the loyalty of the garrison, and it has occurred to me that if they could receive no reinforcements and I suppose you sufficiently command the entrance to the harbor to prevent it that there could be no danger of the freest intercourse between the garrison and the city. We have to-day news of the approach of a mixed commission from Fort Sumter and Charleston, but nothing further than the bare fact. We are probably soon to be involved in that fiercest of human strifes, a civil war. The temper of the Black Republicans is not to give us our rights in the Union, or allow us to go peaceably out of it. If we had no other cause, this would be enough to justify secession, at whatever hazard. When I am better I will write again, if I do not soon see you.

Very sincerely yours,
Jefferson Davis.