

29 Jan 94

Dear Brian Lamb:

Depending only on treacherous memory, I was guilty of several errors in my note to you two days ago about Woodrow Wilson's innovation in 1913 of appearing before the Congress in person to read Report on the State of the Union.

That is true - he did so innovate after a lapse of 112

years when the Annual Message was read by a clerk.

But it was Thomas Jefferson who established the earlier practice of a Presidential personal formal appearance. Both George Washington and John Adams had appeared in person. Mr Jefferson may have acted on his general animus against pomp & state [as in his polo-male seating, without regard to 'precedence' as White House dining] as I think, or, as critics say, because he had a third & piping reading voice.

President Washington's bury at the 26-man Senate questioning him in New York (then the Capital) did happen, but over Indian Treaties not job-choices, and it did end consultations and advisers counsel.

② The classic U.S. Senate from Pennsylvania, whose Diary is our only consistent contemporary record of the unit. You Senate organizing sessions was William MacClay. He was bitter but detailed about the growth of Alexander Hamilton's "conscription" to "sell" the location of the new Capital to the South (i.e. the Potomac River site) in reaction to Federal Assumption of state war debts from the Revolution. MacClay believed passionately in the suggestion Anna as the better site (issue was easiest route through the Appalachians to the Ohio River) & thought himself, in the end, was sold out by the Philadelphia machinations. He had chosen a two-year term in the creation of the Senate & was not re-elected. [Hamilton's banker friends made a fortune by buying up the state-issued vouchers for back pay to Continental Army veterans - "not worth a Continental" was an Army - which vouchers soon had to be redeemed when the first US Congress agreed to pay them. For Hamilton, the decision was a logical point was that unless the rich had a profit-making state in the new National government - bonds making up the thus - state time debt - the new government could not last.]

Thomson (C-Span)
Please see back page for a P.S.



Post Scriptum!

"the better angels of our nature" are, of course, the last six words of Abraham Lincoln's First Inaugural — words ^{once} etched in every literate American's mind. Yet none of the five talkers on Washington Week in Review knew this and no one corrected Hedrick Smith, ex-New York Times, when he jeered at the President's use of the phrase as "Southern preacher talk."

Haynes Johnson, Gloria Berger, Eric Schmitt & Paul Duce were the others.

"The mystic chorus of memory, stretching from every battle-field & patriot grave, to every living heart & hearthstone, and yet all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."

March 4, 1861

GREAT HALL AT KARNAK

Hand-colored lithograph by Louis Haghe for
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with Historical Descriptions by William Brockedon, Vol. 1, Pl. 34
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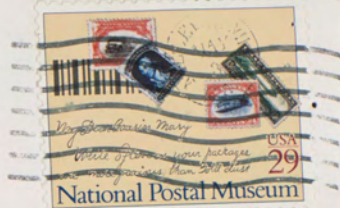
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The Office of the HISTORIAN of the US Senate has a Record of an Presidential appearance before the Senate-



Hazel Crest, IL 60429



Mr. BRIAN LAMB
CEG
C-SPAN
400 North Capitol Street
Washington DC
20001