Confidential

Springfield, Sept. 7, 1854

Hon. J. M. Palmer

Dear Sir:

I am sure that the Nebraska measures will be received and condemned everywhere. Of course I hope something from your position yet I do not expect you to do any thing which may be wrong in your judgment; moreover I have you see anything personally injurious to yourself. You are, and always have been, known by, and respected as a statesman, and I know how painful it must be to an honest, sincere man, to the sagacity and support of a measure which his conscience tells him to be wrong. You have had a severe struggle with yourself, and you have determined pays to overcome the wrong. I am not just to question that you placed in a few public speeches, state your reasons, and thereby yourself? I trust you would say you did pay and shall do it if you think it will injure you. (You may have given your own to vote for [Roger Taney], and if so of course you will stick to it.) But allow me to suggest that you refrain from speaking of this for
it probably would have paid you some good in your favor, it
like manner, to cast their votes (you understand.
And now let me beg your favor for obtaining
this latter upon you, to whom I have ever been
offensive or political. Have your party committee
to make Nebraska a part of your faction; you
probably would have been the Democratic
candidate for Congress in the election. You
admonish it, and I believe it would have
been given you in the case I supposed I
should have won. Happy that Nebraska
was to be relieved at any event. I still
should have voted for the Whig candidate,
but I should have made no special, personal
no letter, and you would have been elected
by at least a slight majority.

Your truly,
Abraham Lincoln.