

## Abraham Lincoln papers

From Thomas A. Duke to Abraham Lincoln, July 6, 1863

Paducah Ky

July 6th 1863—

I herewith enclose an order of Genl Hurlbutt,<sup>1</sup> and my object is to bring that order before you. I was elected from this Senatorial District Senator in the Genl Assembly of this State. My term of office having expired I am a candidate for Congress. I am & ever have been a union man I opposed the rebellion & would like to see the union restored. There was a union Convention held in this City in last month and Mr L M. Anderson<sup>2</sup> was the nominee, Mr Casey, Mr Twymann Mr Owens, Mr Cowgill & myself, all union men & candidates declined having anything to do with said Convention & all these gentlemen & myself are independent Candidates for Congress.

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1 Duke enclosed a clipping of General Stephen A. Hurlbut's Special Orders No. 144 which subjected Kentucky to the conditions of martial law.

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2 Lucien Anderson won election to Congress in 1863 as an Unconditional Unionist.

I apprehend that the order of Genl Hurlbutt may be abused and misunderstood and in several Counties may be used against me by preventing my friends from giving me their support

I have not nor do I intend discussion upon the stump. I voted in the Ky Legislature for the resolutions reported by the Committee on Federal relations which received a large majority vote.

I regret that I have felt it my duty to call your attention to an order so pregnant with danger to the elective franchise. Relying upon your Sound judgement & your high regard for this great Constitutional right, will induce you to modify the order in Such way as may prevent its abuse by designing the partizans of opposing Candidates & personal enemies

This portion of Ky has been & is now more quiet than any other portion of the State — the people are at home sowing that they may reap — & they will continue to do so to the end of this rebellion — Designing & bad men have poisoned the minds of the administration in regard to the political aspect of the Counties west of the Tennessee River— This they have done from motives of interest — Selfishness alone prompted them— The Commanders here now as well as those previously in Command can testify to the Correctness of this assertion & the Significant fact that there has not

been a rebel Soldier (except those who have voluntarily returned home) in any of the Counties west of the river for Sixteen months or more warrant me in this assertion.

Praying your interference in this the dearest right of a freeman I have the honour to be with high regard

Your obt Servt

Tho. A. Duke