

Abraham Lincoln papers

From Robert C. Schenck to Abraham Lincoln, June 30, 1863

Time 845 PM

Washington D. C., June 30th 1863

Baltimore June 30th 63/840 PM

I had four thousand able bodied negroes at work on fortifications. Many of them Seem to want to Continue to work or would fight for the Govt. I Sent papers ten days ago urging and recommending a proposition to Create from among them a regt of Sappers & Miners. No Notice was taken of the proposition. I believe one or two regts for the war Could be raised out of the good material if you would authorize it and have it done immediately while the humor is on them¹

¹ Lincoln replied on July 4 that he had read Schenck's telegram but was not ready to take action on his recommendations. See *Collected Works*, VI, 317.

Robt C Schenck

Maj Genls