Payne, another one of the conspirators who was hanged, when asked by his consul as to the extent and nature of the conspiracy, replied:

"It was a plan to carry off Lincoln and give him up to the confederates," said Payne; "but when that failed, Booth, who was the only one in earnest, proposed to kill Lincoln and all the Cabinet. All the rest backed out and scattered like a lot of beggars. We never heard of Surratt, of Arnold, or any of them again. I told Booth that I would go in with him, and he preferred to kill Lincoln, while I was set upon Seward. I deserve to be killed, and so does Booth. The rest were women and babies." (The Lincoln Scrap Book, page 99 Congressional Library)

Atzerodt's and Payne's confessions would indicate that probably the only thing that saved General Grant's life was the fact that the Grants did not attend the play with the Lincolns. Discussing this General Grant says,