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FORD MOTOR CO.
DEARBORN



APR 16 1925

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Rout 5 New London Wisconsin
April 13" 1925
to the Editor of the
Dearborn Independent

Dear Sir

I have been carefully reading your very interesting account of the assassination of president Lincoln but their is one incident you claim that I never heard before, and I cannot understand how it could have had any thing to do with the murder of our cheaished president you claim that "the incidents leading up to the assassination began with General Grants order in 1864 prohibiting the exchange of prisoners between the North and South" I have never before heard that Grant or Lincoln had anything to do with that order and I have been expecting you to

bring forth the proof
I think Booth was a fanatic and quite possably had a personal enmity against the president I will tell you why
My brother Doctor John Robert Brandt (not Bradt) now dead was a Kentuckian and rode with the Confederate General Morgan, in his raids through Ohio he also had a slight acquaintance with Booth. he saw Booth a few months before the assassination somewhere in Kentucky perhaps it was in Louisville and he heard him denounce the president for not pardoning a friend of his who was under sentence execution I think on Johnsons Island, he Booth said he would down on his knees to the president but of no avail of course this story might

be true and might have been gotten up for stage affect, my brother John was at one time an admires of Booth as an actor, but always denounced him for the terrable crime he committed. So I have been reading your story with double interest to see if there was any truth to the story of Booths "bended knee prayer for mercy for his friend"

Of course it is positively well known that Lincoln himself had nothing to do with the prohibiting the exchange of prisoners, quite the contrary for he always protested against this inhuman order if there was such an order, and it is well known that when the commissioners could not come to terms, Lincoln took a hand in the deal and parolled 10,000, and the confederacy parolled

a like number, I was a prisoner of war at that time and so was Boston Corbett, that parole saved my life and also saved the life of Boston Corbett, while in Andesonville Corbett was a leader in the prayer meetings held their, and all the old men who were held prisoners there, be they Catholicks Protestants or members of none of the Christian Churches will tell you that they beleive that the bursting out of the providence spring was a direct answer to their prayers I was the only one of my squad that got out at that time that lived to get home, the confederates put their men back into the ranks before they were exchanged and the north sent back the very few that was able to do service Corbett was one of these and I was another and I

had the satisfaction of seeing the final surrender of Johnsons army not so much far from where so many of our comrades had perished in those loathesome prisonpens

your story tells us that Corbett fired without orders, I think he was specialy chosen and placed where he could watch Booth with orders to shoot Booth if he saw him attempt to fire on Baker

if General Grant did issue such an order and if there is any connection whatever between the order and the assassination of the President I wish you would explain it through the columns of the Independent and

Oblige Yours Truly

Sheldon Bradt
New London
Wis

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18th Wis
Shermans
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