April
17th
1925

Mr Sheldon Bradt
Route #5
New London Wisc

Dear Sir:

Your letter of April 13th to the Editor of the Dearborn Independent has been referred to the writer.

Attached is a copy taken from the official records of the Civil War containing Gen Grant's letter of April 17th, August 18th, and others which show Grant's connection with the orders prohibiting exchange of prisoners. In a letter from Samuel Arnold, one of the conspirators, to David Miller Dewitt, quoted in Mr Dewitt's "Assassination of Abraham Lincoln" page 263, Arnold makes the statement, "Booth's first mention of the plot to capture A Lincoln and convey him south to be held as a hostage for the exchange of prisoners was in the month of August 1864 at Barnum's Hotel."

After the trial of John H Surratt, he wrote and delivered a lecture on his connection with the abduction plots in which he claimed that Booth told him that the motives that actuated him in the desire to capture Lincoln were; "In the Northern prisons are many thousands of our men whom the United States Government refuses to exchange. You know as well as I the efforts that have been made to bring about the desired exchange. Aside from the great suffering they are compelled to undergo, we are sadly in want of them as soldiers. We cannot spare one man, whereas the United States Government is willing to let their own soldiers remain in our prisons because she has no need of them. I have a proposition to submit to you which I think, if we can carry out, would bring about the desired exchange." You will find the entire speech quoted in The Death of Lincoln by Clara E Laughlin, pages 222-249.

Trusting this answers your questions satisfactorily, we are

Very truly yours

THE DEARBORN PUBLISHING CO

F L Black

FLB/L