

The convention remained in session for eighteen days. It adjourned on March 21. In this time commissions appeared from the states of South Carolina and Georgia, and from the Confederate Government at Montgomery, Alabama. All were present to urge the secession of the state. But the secessionists were always in the minority. On practically every measure the unionists had their way. The secessionists were disgusted.

On March 13, Echols of Calhoun County offered the following resolution: "Whereas, the remarkably strong union sentiment which prevails in this convention leaves us no hope of the secession of the State of Arkansas from the Federal Union, which was a blessing under Washington, but a curse under Lincoln, and whereas, this convention is consuming a considerable amount of the state funds, with no hope of obtaining value received; and whereas the predominating sentiment of this convention seems to be submission to the administration of Lincoln, therefore,

"Be it resolved, that this convention is a nuisance, and should be adjourned sine die immediately."

The resolution was rejected. Day after day the wrangling continued.

On Wednesday, March 20, B. C. Totten of Prairie County secured the adoption of a resolution providing for an election on August 5th to determine whether Arkansas should secede. The resolution also provided that the convention should reassemble on August 19, and, that if the vote had been favorable to secession, this should be "taken to be instructions" to the convention to immediately pass an ordinance of secession. Otherwise the convention should undertake to secure a satisfactory adjustment of the sectional controversies.

The next day, March 21, the Convention adjourned, but before doing so it passed an ordinance providing that, in case an emergency should arise at any time before the 19th of August, the president of the convention should be empowered to call it back into session.

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## II

### Agitation for Secession March 21 to May 6, 1861

After the Convention had adjourned and the members had returned to their homes over the state, agitation for secession continued. The Arkansas True Democrat and Arkansas State Gazette continued to fill their pages with editorials and communications on the subject. The first was for immediate secession. The second supported the union side. It was willing to wait and see. The first even issued a daily, The Daily True Democrat, from March 3 to March 16, possibly longer, advocating immediate secession. In an editorial on March 9, headed "An Earnest Appeal," in part, it has this to say:

"In view of these facts why does the convention longer hesitate? Are we to be humiliated and disgraced as Tennessee has been? Are we to have revolution and anarchy in our midst by the inaction of the only body that can give us peace and quiet? The State is impatient. The people are satisfied that all hope of compromise is at an end. They will soon begin to