

Thomas Ewing, Jr., to George W. Brown

With regard to the formation of the Republican Party at the forthcoming Osawatomie convention, Ewing told George W. Brown, editor of Lawrence's Herald of Freedom, why he believed this was the right course for the "opposition" to take at this time. The Free State Party had, in his opinion, accomplished its objectives, and the Democratic Party contained a proslave faction and was affiliated with the administration. Ewing's objective was "to secure an organization of the Republican or opposition party at Osawattomie [sic], on a just and rational platform, and led by honest & conservative men."

Creator: Ewing, Thomas, 1829-1896

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40

The Peace of Kansas
 will be a
 Leavenworth, Kansas.
 April 13th 1859.
 My dear Sir.
 Yours of 9th inst is
 received.
 In which I am sorry that we
 do not agree fully as to the proper line of
 policy to be pursued by the "liberals" in
 the present state of public affairs in Kansas.
 The Democracy are organized, and
 the elements, though discordant now,
 will, after the Convention at Leavenworth,
 be of one accord - the pro slavery men
 can not be driven from the party, &
 the free state or Douglas men will not
 be, for they are in a majority. With an
 united, organized, and powerful
 party to contend against, the elements
 composing the opposition must either
 unite and compound their differences;
 or, dividing, suffer defeat. You and I
 will agree in this - that if the State Govt
 in Kansas fall into the hands of a party



11

affiliating with the Pierce & Buchanan
Democracy, it will be a great disgrace
to those men who effect the result,
and a great discredit to those who
might prevent it. Now, I can see but one
mode in which we can prevent it
- and that is to make a fair &
honest effort to unite the elements
of the opposition, by endeavoring to secure
an organization of the Republican
or Opposition party at Oswego, Wis.,
on a just and rational platform,
and led by honest men & conservative
men. I will make that effort - And
if we can not get such an organization,
I will not go with the party. I do
not mean to say that I will make
no concession for the sake of an union
- but I do mean that I will not
subscribe to what is regarded by me
as a false or dangerous doctrine or
policy, nor support for office false or
dangerous men.



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12

In coming to this conclusion, I have had less opportunity to consult with those whose views of general policy I have heretofore concurred in than I hoped to have. Perhaps I may on that account have gone wrong. If so, a month from now your policy will have been vindicated, and my error exposed.

You will see by the enclosed call that a County Apportionment Convention will be held here on the 23rd inst. It will adopt a temperate platform & send good men to the Convention at Olathe, I am sure.

Let me add a word, in repetition of what I said as to your policy, when we last met. The "free state" organization I think is regarded by a majority of the people as worn out. With the practical settlement of the question of freedom in Kansas, "its occupation's gone" - I grant it has strength in the affections of many earnest men who have fought under

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43

its banner from the Big Springs Cen-
vention till now - But it has strength
only with them, & they are but a small
minority of the people of Kansas. Every-
thing which that party name implies, or the
Big Springs Platform claims, is granted
now on all hands - I think therefore
that your movement will have strength,
not chiefly because you raise again
the free state flag, but because ~~there~~
many who wish for a fair and liberal
State & National Policy despair of it
through the Democratic & Republican
party - and their own, I think, anxiety
in despairing of such a policy in the
Republican party, when their in-
fluence should at least be first
exerted to that end. I write in great
haste, but believe what is written will be ^{be} sufficient
to enable you to understand my position

Yours truly

Thos. Ewing Jr.

Thos. Ewing Jr.

Editor Herald of Freedom
Lawrence, Kansas