

whose position and interests in the state, have secured for their requests, as Citizens, my respectful Consideration, and in answer to such a request; I beg leave to enclose a copy of an address to the people of Maryland, expressing my reasons for not calling the Legislature until the time arrives to justify that measure, in my judgment. When that time arrives and I am convinced that it is my duty, as the Executive of the state, to convene either the Legislature or the Senate alone, you may be assured, I shall be ready to act,

I am Gentlemen
Your obt. Servant
Tho. H. Hicks

Annapolis, December 18. 1860

Sir,

I have the honor to inform your Excellency that I am here as a Commissioner, appointed according to law, by the Executive of the state of Mississippi to the state of Maryland.

The occasion of my mission is the present crisis in the National affairs of this Country, and the danger which impends the safety and rights of the Southern states, by reason of the election of a sectional Candidate to

the office of President of the United States, and upon a platform of principles destructive of our Constitutional rights, and which, in the opinion of the state of Mississippi, calls for prompt and decisive action for the purpose of our protection and future security.

In the performance of my trust, it is my duty to inform you, that the state of Mississippi has called a Convention to assemble on the 7th January next, to take into consideration the measures necessary to defend our rights, and she desires the co-operation of her sister states of the South. It is my especial business to ask the cooperation of the state of Maryland in this solemn emergency, and to express to you our conviction that no time is to be lost in taking our action.

As you, as I am, that your Excellency has no power to act in this crisis except by a call of the Legislature of your state, and it being important that I shall bear back to my state the intelligence of what may be expected by her as to the course of the state of Maryland, I most respectfully ask, ^{that} your Excellency will state to me whether you will convene the Legislature of your state, for the purpose of counselling with the constituted authorities of the state of Mississippi, and if so, about what time the session may be expected to take place.

I shall be happy to meet your Excellency at as early a moment as your convenience will permit, and at time as you may indicate, as I desire to return to