

that it is one in which the State has no actual interest, but that its name has been used by individuals who set the proceedings in motion and who are the proper persons to prepare for their trial and sustain the costs it may occasion.

I have also been informed that you are the counsel of the parties interested and I therefore think it proper to advise you of the process referred to, and of my views in respect to the case, and should be pleased to learn whether I am correctly informed of its character.

Yours very Respectfully
A. W. Bradford

State of Maryland
Executive Department
Annapolis October 31st 1863

To His Excellency
President Lincoln

Sir:

Rumors are to day current, and they reach me in such a shape that I am bound to believe them, that detachments of soldiers are to be dispatched on Monday next to several of the Counties of the State with a view of being present at their polls on Wednesday next, the day of our State election.

These troops are not residents of the State, and consequently are not sent for the purpose of voting, and as there is no reason, in my opinion, to apprehend any riotous or violent proceedings at this election, the inference is unavoidable that these military detachments, if sent, are expected to exert some control, or influence in that election.

I am also informed that orders are to be issued from the Military Department on Monday presenting certain restrictions or qualifications on the right of suffrage — of what precise character I am not apprized — which the judges of election will be expected to observe.

From my knowledge of your sentiments on these subjects, as expressed to Hon. W. Johnson in my presence, on 22nd Sept., and also disclosed in your letter of instructions to Genl. Schofield, since published, in reference to the Missouri election, I cannot but think that the orders above referred to are without your personal knowledge, and I take the liberty of calling the subject to your attention, and invoking your interpositions to countermand them.

I cannot but feel that to suffer any military interference in the matter of our election, or to prescribe any test of oath to voters when all the candidates in the State — with the exception perhaps of two or three in one Congressional District — are all loyal men, would be justly obnoxious to the public sentiment of the State.

There are other reasons why such proceedings would appear as an offensive discrimination against our State. Our citizens are aware that highly important elections have recently taken place in other States, without, as it is believed, any such interference by the Government authorities; and if votes by hundreds of thousands have