

**Volume 3**

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**The Impeachment of Andrew Johnson - I**

**Lead: Andrew Johnson's loyalty to the Union during the Civil War landed him in the White House but Abraham Lincoln he was not.**

**Intro: *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts.**

**Content: Andrew Johnson stayed in Washington after 1861 and then ran as a Democrat with Republican Abraham Lincoln on the National Union Party ticket in 1864. They won, but shortly thereafter the President was assassinated.**

**As the new President, Johnson desired to apply Abraham Lincoln's relatively easy re-admission plan to the Southern states. Lincoln offered amnesty and full citizenship to all persons, except high Confederate officials and members of the U.S. Congress and military who had joined the Confederacy, who would take an oath of loyalty and accept whatever changes might be coming from Washington on the disposition of the former slaves. If one tenth of the voters of 1860 would take such an oath of loyalty, this minority could form a new state government and be recognized by Washington.**

**This whole concept was based on Lincoln's insistence that there was no**

**such thing as the Confederacy in the first place, the Union was indivisible and had never been broken. Rebellious Southerners were just disloyal, wayward sheep that needed to be gently, quickly and, painlessly as possible, prodded back into fold. This treated the Civil War as if it were little more than a simple police action: just round up the disloyal criminals and toss them in jail or make them promise to be good, and with a re-united nation no longer scarred by the stain of slavery, get on with the country's great destiny. Lincoln was trying to cut Congress out of the loop because he knew that if Congress got involved, the bitterness of four years of bloody conflict would be released and the nation would be distracted by years of**

**nasty recrimination. Lincoln might have been able to pull that off, Andrew Johnson could not. Next time: An East Tennessee tailor comes to the White House.**

**At the University of Richmond, this is Dan Roberts.**

**Resources**

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**Kennedy, John F. *Profiles in Courage*. New York, NY: Harper and Row, 1964.**

**Riddleberger, Patrick W. *1866: The Critical Year Revisited*. Carbondale, IL: Southern Illinois University, 1979.**