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**A House Divided: The North on the
Eve of War – Industrial Behemoth**

Lead: One hundred and fifty years ago the Republic was facing its greatest crisis. This continuing series examines the American Civil War. It is "A House Divided."

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

Content: On the day before Christmas, 1860, the future scourge of Georgia, William Tecumseh Sherman, graduate of West Point and soon to be the late Superintendent of the institution that would become Louisiana State University, was

speaking of the looming conflict with his friend and eager secessionist, Professor David French Boyd of Virginia. “The North can make a steam engine, locomotive or railway car; hardly a yard of cloth or pair of shoes can you make. You are rushing into war with one of the most powerful, ingeniously mechanical and determined people on earth, right at your doors. You are bound to fail.” He was supremely correct.

Whereas the slave states that would comprise the Confederacy were supreme only in basic agriculture (cotton and tobacco) fostered by a plantation system based on slavery (not unlike what would be called a third world country in modern

understanding) the free states had laid the foundation for becoming a world class manufacturing nation. They had a well-established industrial base, thousands of factories producing a wide of variety of armaments and goods, a cheap labor supply tied to wages rather than bondage, rich and abundant natural resources, a vast agricultural garden in the mid-west and an inclination to invention and progress that could only languidly and grudgingly be duplicated in the South.

And this was just its potential. What made it overwhelming was the War. Whereas the South was devastated by tramping armies, the confiscation of its human and physical capital, and the ruin of its white

population, the North simply exploded into industrial development. It was driven in that direction by enormous Federal wartime expenditures, but also by huge improvements in manufacturing techniques and the pursuit of wartime profits which instituted efficiencies of production and distribution. Once it got started, this industrial behemoth propelled Federal armies to sweep their opponents from the field.

**From Richmond Virginia, this is
Dan Roberts.**

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