

PRESIDENT: We go to LR 69. Who is going to handle this for Samuel Mudd. Dr. Kelly.

CLERK: LR 69.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature...

CLERK: It is found on page 1722 of the Journal.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I circulated a letter to the members of the Legislature just before lunch giving an extreme detailed resume of the research that has gone into this resolution by Mr. Baird Paine, Jr. out in my district. Those people that are following the exoneration of Dr. Mudd's reputation are very serious in their attempt to restore the family name of Mudd to the good graces it had before the unfortunate incident at the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States. I move we adopt this resolution.

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, it is very easy because of the man's name and the significance that it carries, which is Mudd, to feel that this is a trifling frivolous exercise but I don't consider it to be that. If I were not convinced that this man was not a part of the conspiracy, I certainly would not attach my name to a resolution of this kind. This doctor is an individual who in the dead of the night or very, very early one morning had an individual come to his door dressed in disguise. Dr. Mudd was familiar with John Wilkes Booth. Not as a personal acquaintance but he had met him a few days or sometime before for a very short period of time. John Wilkes Booth apparently feeling that he would be recognized by Dr. Mudd and knowing that the word of what he had done which was to assassinate Abraham Lincoln would be a few hours behind him and Dr. Mudd could give information as to the direction of his flight came to Dr. Mudd in disguise and indicated through a friend of his that he had been thrown from a horse and suffered a fracture of a leg and asked that Dr. Mudd set his leg and give him medical treatment which any doctor would do. We can not totally reconstruct at this late date what happened on that night but I am convinced that this doctor did not know who John Wilkes Booth was at the time he set his leg. I am convinced that he certainly had no way of knowing that John Wilkes Booth had just assassinated Abraham Lincoln. The only way he could know that would be to have foreknowledge of what Booth's plans were and this is how some people try to tie him in with the conspiracy to kill Abraham Lincoln, but during that time after an event like this, just as the present time, a person who could have seen the individual who carried out the crime or spoken to the person after the crime was carried out could easily be drawn into a dragnet and made to bear a crime for which he had no guilt whatsoever. I think this individual doctor did no more than what any doctor would do for somebody needing medical attention. He set a man's leg and the man went on his way. Because of the hysteria during that time, he was arrested and sentenced to a very long period in prison. He went and served some time in a prison under very, very bad conditions. A disease broke out, I think