My first impulse in the advance notices of today's broadcast was to call it, "Strictly Personal." Then later on I thought I might call it, "A Tour With Abraham Lincoln." So I believe I will settle on the latter and call it a tour with this great man, Abraham Lincoln.

By way of a beginning let me say that in my Capitol office and in my office in the Senate Office Building are, of course, the usual variety of pictures. But I have placed some emphasis on three different portraits. First, William McKinley, President of the United States after whom my father named me since I was born in 1896 -- I have some excellent casts of McKinley and I prize them very highly because I thought him one of the gentlest persons who ever served in the Presidency.

Secondly, on the wall in my Capitol office is the last portrait made of Robert A. Taft. The family wanted me to have it and so it graces the wall in my Capitol office which is the Minority Leader's office and I am so proud of it.

Finally, I have a variety of things on Abraham Lincoln. Over my desk is that picture of Lincoln sitting in a chair, reading a book to his son, Tad. It is a priceless thing and when I did a program with Edward R. Murrow on "Small World" a year or two ago I told him I would do the program along with Carl Sandburg and Professor Parkinson if this picture of Lincoln and his son were brought into the telecast and it was. In addition, I have a variety of prints and then what is supposed to be a completely authentic piece of the tweed cloak that Lincoln used to wear and then of course this bronze of Lincoln, this standing bronze. I think I will push this back so you can see it because I am so proud of it. It was given to me by a man much older than myself just a little while before he died. He brought it to Washington and said I don't know how long I will be here but this I want you to have and it is one of the finest things I know. And as I look at this standing bronze I have often
thought, well, anybody can stand with Abraham Lincoln and it doesn't cost anything. Any citizen can stand with Lincoln and I say that for this reason. There is a transport, a jet transport if you please, faster than anything ever manufactured by the hands of man which gets you there in an instant wherever you want to go. You can call it what you like - I call it the transport of fancy. You can call it the transport of imagination. But whatever you call it you can climb aboard and in an instant you are where you want to go. Now when you get aboard this fast jet there will be a stewardess, and she is lovely, sort of ghostly like a disembodied spirit, and I like to think of her and just call her, "history." So if you climb aboard the transport of fancy and there you will be greeted by Miss History. She won't announce altitudes and cruising speed but she will tell you about the next stop if you so desire. And so climbing aboard there is any place you want to go and there you can stand with Lincoln.

I think the first trip I would like to take is to Salem where he lived, where he was a postmaster and did a variety of things, got his training. We learned in Salem in the year 1832, that was the year of the Blackhawk War, and you know what happened. Lincoln was a candidate for the state legislature. He was only twenty-three years old. And now that we have arrived in Salem we go up to the post office and here are people. They are in animated conversation and finally, someone says Lincoln was defeated and that is right. He was defeated for the legislature that year. There was no dismay written on his face, no agony of spirit. He did say it was the only time he had been beaten by the people. But you see the transport of fancy can take us to Salem where he once lived.

Now we can climb aboard and go to Vandalia. That is where the capital was located before it went to Springfield. This was a number of years later. He had been elected to the legislature and twice he had been a candidate for the Speakership of the General Assembly. So we climb up and stand with him while they are counting the votes and for the second time he was defeated for the Speakership. You look at
his face. Any dismay written there, any distress or agony of spirit? None whatsoever. He may have felt it inside of course but he never let it show.

So now we go back and climb aboard the transport and then we go to Springfield. When we get there, we go to his law office. The office of Lincoln and Herndon. It is an election again. It seems to be always recalling on it when there is some kind of a contest, some kind of an election. But there is a wispy smile on his lips. Do you know why? They have counted the votes. He was thirty-seven years old. He was elected to the Congress of the United States and what a happy day it was for him even though he wasn't sure that he was going to be happy as a member of the Congress.

So we leave Springfield aboard the transport of fancy and we go to Bloomington. The year is 1856. He is forty-seven years old and there he is up on the stage. It looks like he is going to make a speech. So we can go up and stand with him on the stage and he makes the speech. It was referred to as the Lost Speech. That was the Republican Convention in Bloomington in the year 1856. All the fervor and the zeal and the glow that went into it -- and there was a reason. Lincoln had found himself. The moral Lincoln was emerging and for the first time he was putting slavery on immoral ground and what a great day that was in his life. And no wonder his law partner, Billy Herndon, said, "that was the greatest speech he ever made."

So back to our conveyance and we will go back to Springfield. It is the year 1856, the same year. It is June. It is nice in Springfield. It is summertime and now they move the capital from Vandalia to Springfield. Look at that crowd in the capital grounds. Do you hear those shouts? Lincoln for Senator! Lincoln for Senator! And that is the day he made that great speech "A house divided against itself cannot stand." "This nation cannot endure permanently half slave, half free." That was in 1856 in the month of June.

So we leave Springfield now and in a jiffy we are in Ottawa, Illinois. Look down and see how placid the Illinois River looks and look at the clouds above and look at all those people. What gives here? This is the first of the Lincoln-Douglas debates. The year is 1858 and it comes in the month of August. And there
he stresses slavery is wrong. It's wrong. It's wrong and it is a theme and a keynote that he carried through all of the six debates that finally wound up in Alton. So we stood with him there in Ottawa.

And now we take a longer journey but it doesn't take any longer aboard the transport of imagination. We go to New York. We go to Cooper Union. A great institute named after Peter Cooper the inventor who built this huge building. He wanted youngsters to have a chance. Look at the snow. The place is filled with snow but look at the crowd. Fifteen hundred people in all their finery and there he stands. The Cooper Union speech that was made in February, 1860, a hundred and one years ago this month. A great speech that had appeal for the people in the East and we had the privilege of standing with him on the platform as he made that great speech.

Now we leave and go to Chicago. What is the time? May 18, 1860. Look at that milling crowd. Atune your ear. Listen to the rumors. The Republican Convention is on. Suddenly there is a cannon blast. Lincoln nominated! Lincoln nominated! In May, 1860, he was nominated for the Presidency of the United States and sweet thing he said to his wife in Springfield - we have been nominated. So now we leave and go back to Springfield.

We see him there in that long rocker at Eighth and Jackson Street in a remodeled house. They say the remodeling cost $1,300. Wonder what it would cost today. But there he is this great humble man, now the flag bearer for his party in the Presidential campaign.

We go to Washington for the inaugural. There he sits in the center chamber watching Hannibal Hamlin, his Vice Presidential nominee being given the oath of office in the Senate Chamber. Then out to the Capitol portico. First the speech and oh what a great speech it was. One of those deathless things. And then an old man administers the oath. He is in a robe. He is shaking. Lincoln kisses the Bible. What part did he kiss? The Fifth Chapter of Isaiah. And then Roger Taney, Chief Justice, administered the oath. And there we were. It was our privilege to stand
with him.

Now we go to the White House, August 22, 1862. He is sending a letter to Horace Greeley - my paramount object is to save the Union.

We go back to the White House a month later the 22nd of September, 1862. In long hand he is pencilling and now he reads The Emancipation Proclamation to strike the chains from the hands of people with dark skins. Then the same year, two months later, we land in Gettysburg and there he is. Ten sentences, two and a half minutes - the Gettysburg Address. Whether a nation so conceived can long endure. Oh they said the great ovation would endure not his remarks. Yet they will endure through time.

We come back to Washington for the second inaugural. There he is this sad man and what does he say - with malice toward none with charity for all with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the light.

And finally we journey now to Springfield again to Oak Ridge Cemetery. Look at the crowd. His lifeless body has gone back home. The rail splitter, the man who was a champion in wrestling, the postmaster, the state legislator, the Congressman, the 16th President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln, finally got back home.

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