

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
VIRGINIA CIVIL WAR COMMISSION
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For release in papers of
Wednesday, December 30, 1959

December 17, 1959
Release No. 17

The Virginia Civil War Commission has disclosed plans to commemorate the "Peace Convention" of 1861, which was a last ditch effort to preserve the Union and prevent the Civil War.

All fifty states will be asked to recognize the significance of the Peace Convention as an effort by men of good will to keep the peace.

The 1861 convention was called by Virginia. All 34 states then in the Union were invited, but representatives of only 21 states attended. It was held at the Willard Hotel in Washington, D. C., February 4, 1861.

In spite of the earnest efforts of some, the plan to settle the differences between the states which was adopted by the Convention was unsatisfactory and was rejected by Congress.

"The Peace Convention," said State Senator Charles T. Moses, Chairman of the Virginia Civil War Commission, in disclosing plans to commemorate the event, "was a sincere attempt of a group of leaders who put the national interest ahead of party and special interest to save the nation.

"Our purpose is to pay tribute to those men and to launch the 1961-1965 Centennial of the American Civil War on a plan which will encourage the American people to rededicate themselves to the moral principles which alone can prevent divisions in our midst."

Moses said that Virginia's plans for commemorating the Peace Convention include encouraging further research on this almost forgotten chapter of American history and publication of the story of this interesting episode across the country.

All State Centennial Commissions will be asked to cooperate with the District of Columbia Centennial Commission in erecting a memorial in Washington, D.C., which would be dedicated with appropriate ceremonies on the 100th anniversary of the Peace Convention, February 4, 1961.