

## Sic Semper Tyrannis

The Lord was on the Northern side – a nation divided, must fall. And so, we are United.  
Would he who railroaded them and fledgling railroads have been the wiser in their reconstruction?

Alas, we will not know. And he, the Lincoln – did he hear and understand from Them that commerce served new industries, while farms (plantations, that is, I mean) fed his people?

He did the best he could; retired with grace from public life (with help from friends at Ford's). I think he understood full well; with feet of clay, he wasn't able to prevail.

*Leslie N. Sinclair, for Outfox*

For anyone who didn't know, President Lincoln was President of the United States of America when the Southern states wanted to secede. He went to war against them, in order to hold the union together. After the Northern states had won the war and the process of reconstruction had begun, President Lincoln was shot in his box seat at Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C. The assassin shouted "Sic Semper Tyrannis" as he leaped from the box to the stage and broke his foot, which hindered his getaway. At least, that's how Leslie heard it.

This poem was inspired by an illustrated map of the Commonwealth of Virginia, with its own flag stating clearly "Sic Semper Tyrannis." This may or may not be a slogan for the U.S. South and all it represents. What it means is "Thus always Tyranny." *It's a defiance of being over-ruled by force, with which most of us can identify.* The map says that Virginia was the "first state" of the United States of America.

Many of the first presidents were from Virginia; there are outdoor pastimes in Virginia, as well as sophisticated city lifestyles. "Virginia is for Lovers." And, the Historic Triangle (Williamsburg, Jamestown, Yorktown) contains many historic sites and educational exhibits from both the Revolutionary War and the War Between the States.

Can we manage better this time? Can we avoid using force? If we indulge, our problems will still be here tomorrow (metaphorically speaking)! And our former friends may dislike us more than they did, before we hit them.

Public life is dangerous. We should elect more wise people, then perhaps they would not be so rare, and therefore such easy targets. The truly desperate, entering public life for other reasons, don't mind who they bring down with them. Or what systems they wreck that didn't work for them. Before cheering them on, what one needs to keep in mind is that "the alternative may be worse."