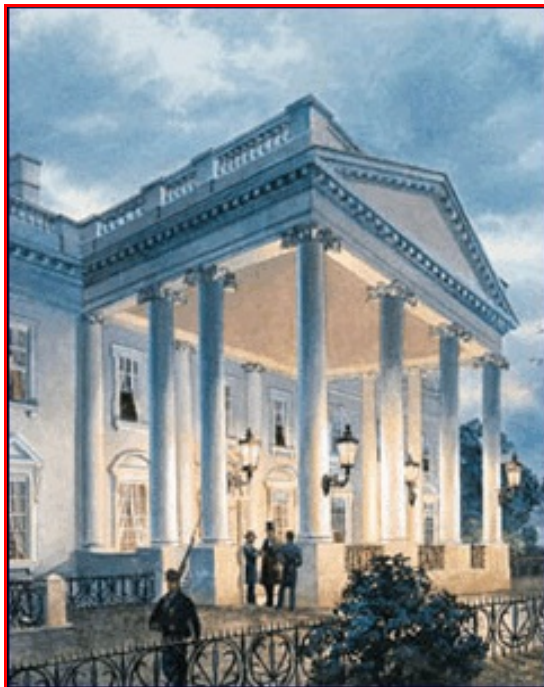


Sixty years ago, as a boy I was enthralled with certain network radio shows. One of them was “Mr. President” Starring Edward Arnold, a MGM property. One particular episode was President Lincoln, of course you had to guess which president they were reflecting and at the end of the broadcast they would divulge the president being featured.

Arnold the radio and screen actor was playing “The War Time President Abraham Lincoln.” This particular program started in the Oval Office, and Arnold announced “ A president needed three essentials to survive in his job at the White House; First a sense of humor, second Strong belief in the power of prayer and finally a refuge away from the executive mansion. He said “Frankly, I had the first, I developed the second and I discovered the third.” Picture, seated at the War Department Telegraph office working his draft of the Emancipation Proclamation.



It was Lincoln’s third year in the White House as a War Time President and he would shortly discover one of those unusual places as his refuge and hideaway.! The room was over our War Department and was the communications center of the Army. Simply Lincoln easily learned about the High-tech process, the clicks and clacks, the maintenance required for the machinery checking battery levels (mixing the juices) and familiar with the telegraphic personnel in the center. Some of the operators were just young teens. He had a cot where he dozed in times of high telegraph activity during battles. Lincoln wanted to be as close to the battle as possible.



President Lincoln at the White House headed for his refuge on foot, the Army War Department and its High-Tech communications center. Thanks to Edward Arnold’s “Mr. President broadcast series.” I can still remember the click clack of the morse equipment the sound engineers used in the broadcast. Those programs can still be down loaded on the Net. Your author is fortunate, working on two of the three essentials and has his refuge in radio central.

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