Executive Mansion,

Washington, Oct. 21. 1862.

Major General Grant,
Governor Johnson, &
all having Military,
naval, and civil authority
under the United
States within the
State of Tennessee.

The bearer of this, Thomas R. Smith, a citizen of Tennessee, goes to that State, seeking to have such of the people thereof as desire to avoid the unsatisfactory prospect before them, and to have peace again upon the old terms under the Constitution of the United States, to manifest such desire by elections of members to the Congress of the United States particularly, and perhaps a legislature, State officers, and a United States' Senator, friendly to their object. I shall be glad for you and each of you to aid him, & all others acting for this object, as much as possible. In all available ways give the people a chance

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to express their wishes at their elections. Follow law, and forms of law as far as convenient; but at all events get the expression of the largest number of the people possible. All see how such action will connect with, and affect the proclamation of Sept. 22nd. Of course the men elected should be gentlemen of character, willing to swear support to the Constitution as of old, & known to be above reasonable suspicion of duplicity.

Yours very Respectfully

A. Lincoln.

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