

7.1a Bills and Resolutions, House of Representatives, 37<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session, H.R. 374, *A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U. S. Congressional Documents and Debates, 1774-1875*, <https://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=llhb&fileName=037/llhb037.db&recNum=2143>.

7.1b “From Washington,” *Deseret News*, July 2, 1862, 1.

## **7.1. The United States Congress outlaws slavery and involuntary servitude in all U.S. territories, June 20, 1862.**

### **Document**

#### **a. An Act to secure freedom to all persons within the Territories of the United States.<sup>1</sup>**

H. R. 374.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that from and after the passage of this act there shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in any of the Territories of the United States now existing, or which may at any time hereafter be formed or acquired by the United States, otherwise than in punishment of crimes whereof the party shall have been duly convicted.

### **Document**

#### **b. The Salt Lake *Deseret News* announces the abolishment of slavery in the territories.<sup>2</sup>**

In the House of Representatives on the 9<sup>th</sup> ult., Hon. J. M. Bernhisel, Delegate from Utah, presented the Constitution of the State of Deseret and the memorial accompanying it asking for admission into the Union on an equal footing with the original States, which were received and

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<sup>2</sup> “From Washington,” *Deseret News*, July 2, 1862, 1.

referred to the committee on Territories. On the 10<sup>th</sup>, the Vice President presented the same in the Senate, when Mr. Latham, of California, moved to print the constitution and memorial, and to admit the Senators elect, Messrs. W. H. Hooper and G. Q. Cannon to the floor of the Senate, which motion was referred to the committee on Territories, in that branch of the National Legislature. The next day Mr. Latham offered a resolution to admit Messrs. Hooper and Cannon, claiming to be Senators from Deseret, to the floor of the Senate, which was laid over. It will be remembered that the Senators from California, Messrs. Latham and McDougall were the only members who voted "nay" on the passage of the polygamy bill, so called.

On June 20<sup>th</sup>, the President approved the bill prohibiting slavery in the Territories.

In the Senate on the 20<sup>th</sup>, the Pacific railroad bill, being under consideration, Mr. Trumbull moved to strike out the section providing for four branch lines at the eastern terminus, which was rejected 15 to 25. The bill was then read the third time, and passed 35 to 5. The nays were Messrs. Howe, King, Pearce, Wilkinson and Wright.