

The Democratic Platform (1856)

... *Resolved*, That we reiterate with renewed energy of purpose the well-considered declarations of former conventions upon the sectional issue of domestic slavery, and concerning the reserved rights of the states—

1. That Congress has no power under the constitution to interfere with or control the domestic institutions of the several states, and that all such states are the sole and proper judges of everything appertaining to their own affairs not prohibited by the constitution; that all efforts of the Abolitionists or others, made to induce Congress to interfere with questions of slavery, ..., and that all such efforts have an inevitable tendency to diminish the happiness of the people and endanger the stability and permanency of the Union, ...
2. That the foregoing proposition covers and was intended to embrace the whole subject of slavery agitation in Congress, and therefore the Democratic party of the Union, ..., will abide by and adhere to a faithful execution of the acts known as the compromise measures, settled by the Congress of 1850—"
3. That the Democratic party will resist all attempts at renewing in Congress, or out of it, the agitation of the slavery question, under whatever shape or color the attempt may be made.

Resolved, That we recognize the right of the people of all the territories, including Kansas and Nebraska, acting through the legally and fairly expressed will of the majority of the actual residents, ... , to form a constitution, with or without domestic slavery, and be admitted into the Union upon terms of perfect equality with the other states.

[From Thomas V. Cooper, and Hector T. Fenton, *American Politics from the Beginning to Date* (Chicago: Charles R. Brodix, 1882), pp. 36–39.]

http://www.wwnorton.com/college/history/archive/resources/documents/ch16_02.htm
<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=29576>