June 11, 1861

*This Date in Missouri Senate History*

On *This Date in Missouri Senate History*, the date was June 11, 1861, the day state leaders met to decide Missouri’s involvement in the Civil War.

The gathering was held at the Planter’s House Hotel in St. Louis, and called by then-Gov. — and former Missouri Sen — Claiborne Fox Jackson. The intention was to put an end to the question of Missouri’s status as it related to secession. The meeting’s direction quickly changed.

After some four or five hours of talks, Brig. Gen. Nathaniel Lyon stood and uttered the now infamous words, “This is war” during a heated rant. This would lead to the governor returning to Jefferson City and, just one day later, issuing a war proclamation that would result in state government having to leave the Capitol City.

As this was June, the Missouri General Assembly was not in session, nor was there time to meet in emergency session. By October, lawmakers would then pass legislation asking voters to decide on secession. Oddly enough, this would be known as the “Rebel Legislature” that met in Neosho.

June 11, 1861, the date marking the Planter’s House meeting — and Missouri’s sudden, if not unwelcome — entrance into the Civil War, on *This Date in Missouri Senate History*.

(Sources: [Civil War on the Western Border](http://www.civilwaronthewesternborder.org/timeline/planters-house-hotel-meeting); [Civil War St. Louis](http://www.civilwarstlouis.com/History/PlantersHotel.htm); [The Civil War Muse](http://www.thecivilwarmuse.com/index.php?page=planters-house-meeting))