HE POSES BUT DECLINES TO SPEAK. In this enlargement of the photograph on the left, Lincoln appears tall and gaunt in his white suit. His rumpled hair, with a lock tumbling over his forehead, gives him a casual air. The journalist Donn Piatt met Lincoln shortly before he was elected President. "Tall as he was," recorded Piatt, "his hands and feet looked out of proportion, so long and clumsy were they. Every movement was awkward in the extreme. He sat with

one leg thrown over the other, and the pendant foot swung almost to the floor. And all the while, two little boys, his sons, clambered over those legs, patted his cheeks, pulled his nose, and poked their fingers in his eyes, without causing reprimand or even notice. He had a face that defied artistic skill to soften or idealize. . . . It was capable of few expressions, but those were extremely striking. When in repose, his face was dull, heavy, and repellent. It brightened, like a lit lantern, when animated."



Ostendorf collection Detail O-34