

Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission
Meeting #10, February 8, 2004, Noon
Members' Room, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.

Present were Dr. Jean Bandler, Dr. Darrel Bigham, Dr. Gabor Boritt, Hon. Richard Durbin, Joan Flinspach, Harold Holzer, Dr. Jim Horton, Hon. Jesse Jackson, Jr., Hon. Tommy Turner, Hon. Frank Williams, Michael Bishop, executive director, and Jackie Williams, staff of the ALBC. Congressional Staff included Pat Souders from the Hon. Richard Durbin's office, ????????? from the Hon. Jesse Jackson, Jr.'s office, Joan Mitchell from the Hon. Ray LaHood's office, and Bill Beaver from the Hon. Jim Bunning's office. Guests attending the meeting were Peter Carmichael, Executive Director of the Lincoln and Soldiers' Home.

Mr. Holzer called the meeting to order at Noon. He introduced Peter Carmichael, Executive Director of the Lincoln and Soldiers' Home, which the National Trust for Historic Preservation is restoring. Mr. Carmichael spoke briefly about the status of the project. The programming focus will provide a resource for academic historians, public historians and schoolteachers. He noted an upcoming conference where Dr. James McPherson will be speaking. The restoration is currently concentrating on the exterior. An interpretive plan is being developed, and by this time next year, work will begin on the interior. After giving the Commissioners this update, Mr. Carmichael left the meeting.

Senator Durbin recommended that the Commissioners also take the time to see the Frederick Douglass house, another period landmark in the Washington, D.C. area.

Minutes

Mr. Holzer asked about the Minutes from the previous meeting. Dr. Bandler noted that a correction on page 2, in the first paragraph, line three, should read, "the US Postal Service Stamp Committee has received the letter requesting a general issue stamp, a commemorative stamp series and an international airmail stamp." (These corrections will be made in bold on the 10/27/03 minutes in addition to this notation.) Following this correction Dr. Bandler moved that the minutes be approved as corrected, and Judge Turner seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Committee Reports

Michael Bishop gave the Executive Director's report, which is attached. At the end of his report, Mr. Bishop reminded the Commissioners of Senator Simon's visit at the last meeting and added that in addition to losing Senator Simon, we had also lost another great Lincoln friend, Governor Nunn of Kentucky. He then asked Judge Turner to say a few words about Governor Nunn. Judge Turner gave us a brief biography of some of his accomplishments—member of the ALBC Advisory Committee, a leader in the acquisition of the Knob Creek Farm for the National Park Service, Mrs. Nunn's role in the restoration of the Mary Todd Lincoln home, etc. Mr. Holzer asked that we observe a moment of silence for Senator Simon and Governor Nunn. The Commissioners did so.

Lincoln and the Arts Committee

Mrs. Taper was unable to attend the meeting at the last minute, so Mr. Bishop gave the report in her absence. It is attached. Dr. Bandler asked for more detail regarding cost and a greater understanding of the use of reproductions. Mr. Holzer explained that all bronzes are reproductions, because they are cast from the sculptor's mold. He also noted that more information on the cost and the funding sources will be forthcoming. Ms. Flinspach remarked that Mrs. Taper had included the commission of a piece of music in the Arts report. Since this has been Mrs. Taper's idea and she is the one with the contacts, Ms. Flinspach would remove that project from the Public Outreach report so that there will be no duplication. Mr. Holzer commented that Mrs. Taper intends to speak to Richard Moe of the National Trust for Historic Preservation before the May meeting about locating the sculpture garden at the Lincoln and Soldiers' Home.

Education Committee

Mr. Holzer invited Dr. Bigham to give his report, which is also attached. Dr. Bigham said that this report is the longer version, which is more detailed than the committee report that will go to Congress. Mr. Holzer congratulated Dr. Bigham on the report and asked him about the challenge of reaching K-12 teachers. Dr. Bigham explained that K-12 teachers have demands placed on them to meet curricula standards and testing goals and that if the Education programs for teachers assist with these obligations, teachers will be far more likely to use them. Dr. Horton encouraged the committee members to form and use liaisons with organizations such as the Gilder Lehrman Institute for History. He also suggested that we use these organizations to develop models. Dr. Bigham added that we can use the "Teaching American History" grant program as a resource, too. Mr. Holzer commented on the experience that the Lincoln Forum has had with essay contests. When the Forum changed the name of the contest to a scholarship competition rather than an essay competition, entries increased dramatically. Chief Justice Williams confirmed this. Dr. Bigham pointed out that it is the intent of the Education Committee to partner wherever possible. Mr. Bishop noted that the National Endowment for the Humanities is offering an essay contest on Abraham Lincoln this year with a top prize of \$5,000. Dr. Boritt asked who will do all the work coming from the Education Committee and how will we pay for it? Mr. Holzer said that the June report to Congress will help us set our goals and priorities. Mr. Bishop added that the report to Congress will become our blueprint. At the end of the discussion, Drs. Horton and Bigham mentioned OAH and Gilder Lehrman as potential partners.

International Committee

Mr. Holzer requested that Dr. Boritt give the International Committee report. Dr. Boritt referred to the attached report and asked for the Commissioners suggestions and comments. Dr. Horton urged that Dr. Boritt make contact with links that already exist, such as the Fulbright Commission, and through it, we can link to its counterparts worldwide. Dr. Horton has recently returned from Holland, and he spoke of the affinities that the Dutch have for Lincoln. The Dutch Empire abolished slavery in 1863. Dr. Horton asked if the Commissioners can network with their contacts abroad about these proposals. Mr. Holzer encouraged him and others to do so.

Mandate Committee

Mr. Holzer asked Dr. Bandler to give her committee report. It is attached. It was stated that we need to pursue Congressional support. She noted that the Stamp Committee has postponed consideration of our requests, but that we will do at least one Lincoln stamp. Dr. Bigham asked about soliciting international stamps from foreign countries. Dr. Bandler urged Drs. Boritt and Horton to consider this under the auspices of the International Committee. Senator Durbin reminded us that stamps do not reach the youngest generation.

Dr. Bandler moved on to the topic of the Joint Session of Congress. Senator Durbin commented that we will need someone of substantial note to fill the seats for a Joint Session of Congress. Mr. Holzer noted that we will have C-SPAN on board.

Dr. Bandler brought up the topic of the Rededication of the Lincoln Memorial. The Commissioners discussed the topic of the museum in the basement. On the recommendation of Senator Durbin the Commissioners agreed to remove the first sentence in the third paragraph of page three of the report.

The Commissioners agreed with and praised the method that the committee used to deal with the last mandate regarding acquisition and preservation of artifacts associated with Abraham Lincoln.

Public Outreach Committee

Ms. Flinspach gave this report. A commissioner recommended that we might want to consider the NBC series, "The More You Know..." to get information out about Abraham Lincoln. McNeil and Lehrer are developing a children's program, which also might be another vehicle to use. Mr. Bishop noted that the Kunhardts are producing a biography of Lincoln. This might assist with the Biographical Documentary listed as one of the projects in the report. Mr. Holzer informed the Commission that C-SPAN is already producing the Cooper Union speech with Sam Waterston as Abraham Lincoln.

Under 2007 Projects on page 7, the Commission decided not to select a single Lincoln interpreter to endorse, instead we will link the website to that of the Abraham Lincoln Presenters organization and let them handle this.

Ms. Flinspach also highlighted the project at the top of page 9. The Commissioners concurred with the idea of working with the Lincoln Highway Association.

Dr. Boritt asked if we should have some projects targeted to African-Americans. Congressman Jackson spoke about the Cooper Union address noting that it set forth Lincoln's stand against the expansion of slavery in the territories. Senator Durbin raised the question, "How do we reach out to the African-American community?" Congressman Jackson responded that we need more dialogue. Lincoln is the subject of great debate in the African-American community. Dr. Horton urged us to be straight forward about Abraham Lincoln. Congressman Jackson noted that the Cooper Union Address brought African-Americans directly into the dialogue. Dr. Horton suggested incorporating Frederick Douglass into the project on the Cooper Union Address. Mr. Bishop suggested using radio stations as a way to reach this audience, and Senator Durbin recommended that we reach out to the churches. Chief Justice Williams noted that African-Americans are included in our mission.

Publications Committee

Dr. Boritt gave the attached Publications Committee report, stating that this is the preliminary report. He asked for input from the Commissioners. Mr. Holzer suggested that an update of the *Abraham Lincoln Encyclopedia* should be included. He recommended that the committee consider finding a publisher and an editor who would organize its production.

State Liaison Committee

Dr. Bigham gave the attached report. He noted the progress made by the Lincoln States group and by each of the Lincoln states individually. Dr. Bigham stated that the National Park Service proposal came out of the Lincoln States group. Mr. Holzer asked that we vote to approve support of the National Park Service report. Senator Durbin moved this, and Dr. Horton seconded it. The motion passed.

Unfinished Business

Mr. Holzer and Mr. Bishop reminded us that amended committee reports with input from this meeting are due in two weeks. Mr. Bishop will have the draft to us in advance of our May meeting.

New Business

Mr. Holzer brought up the Commemorative Coin under New Business. Dr. Bandler gave the report. Authorizing a commemorative coin would generate from \$2.5 to \$3 million dollars in revenue. The process takes 3-4 years and a formal bill would need to be sent to Congress. Only two coins are minted per year. Chief Justice Williams asked if the coin could be minted in 2008. Dr. Bandler and the Mandate Committee recommend that the ALBC be the sole sponsor. She explained that we will need matching funds in order to receive the funds and that when the match is made, then we would receive the funds. Chief Justice Williams moved that we sponsor a silver Lincoln commemorative coin for 2008, and Dr. Bigham seconded the motion. The motion carried. Senator Durbin and Congressman Jackson will check into the history of commemorative coins to see if it is possible to receive the funds without matching them.

In a separate item under New Business Chief Justice Williams moved and Dr. Bigham seconded a motion to defer the Susan Davis International request. The motion carried.

In a final item, Ms. Flinspach moved and Senator Durbin seconded a motion to endorse the conference on Abraham Lincoln and the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854. The motion carried.

Future Meetings

Discussion ensued regarding the date for a meeting in May in Washington, D.C. Mr. Bishop will follow up. In September we will meet in Fort Wayne, Indiana on Monday the 20th. Mr. Bishop will send reminders. He also urged us to see this week's *Parade Magazine* article and to look for the article in *USA Today*.

The Commissioners adjourned to Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Flinspach, Secretary