

**Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission**  
**Meeting #11, June 7, 2004, 10:00 AM**  
**LBJ Room, United States Capitol**  
**Washington, D.C.**

Present were Dr. Jean Bandler, Dr. Darrel Bigham, Dr. Gabor Boritt, Hon. Richard Durbin, Joan Flinspach, Harold Holzer, Hon. Ray LaHood, Hon. Tommy Turner, Hon. Frank Williams, Michael Bishop, Executive Director, Jackie Williams, Projects Manager, and Ryan Cole, Executive Assistant. Congressional staff included Pat Souders from the Hon. Richard Durbin's office, Diane Liesman from the Hon. Ray LaHood's office, and Bill Beaver from the Hon. Jim Bunning's office.

Harold Holzer called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Chief Justice Williams so moved, and Dr. Bigham seconded the motion. It carried.

Mr. Holzer then asked to move the Committee Reports ahead on the agenda so that the Commissioners could place the Executive Director's report as a transition to the discussion of the Interim Report. Dr. Boritt asked first for the opportunity to congratulate Mr. Holzer on his latest presentation on C-SPAN. Dr. Bandler added that we should also congratulate him on his book, *Lincoln at Cooper Union*. The Commissioners concurred, and this record officially notes our congratulations.

**Education Committee Report**

Dr. Bigham gave the Education Committee Report. He made notations about the attached Implementation Plan discussing first the Teachers and the Classroom Guide proposal from Jim Percoco. He recommended that this project be funded through the ALBC and be incorporated into our website where it could reach all levels of students across numerous disciplines. This proposal is under Tab D in the attached plan and will cost \$15,000. Mr. Holzer and Mr. Bishop recommended that we take action on this proposal at the September meeting. Mr. Holzer advised that an Ad Hoc Committee review the proposal, and Dr. Boritt volunteered to be on this committee. Congressman LaHood raised the issue of having a Budget Committee look at the entire financial picture. Dr. Bandler urged the Commission to consider this proposal as soon as possible so that Mr. Percoco could have the summer when he was not teaching to work on the product for the website. Dr. Boritt said that he can run the proposal by the Gilder Lehrman Institute for American History, an entity with a large network of teachers. Dr. Bigham informed us that he had made an initial contact with Gilder Lehrman and that they are indeed interested. Mr. Holzer explained that this Institute supported numerous programs as a private nonprofit to promote the study of American History including the History Teacher of the Year Award for 50 states and the 2 territories and a Rhodes Scholar-type program for graduate students. Dr. Bigham moved on to discuss Item E of the Education Committee's attached Implementation Plan. He noted that there was a list of potential partners for this project.

At this point in the meeting, Judge Turner arrived.

Dr. Bigham continued noting that he had followed up with the Executive Director of the Organization of American Historians to confirm the list of collaborative activities. There will be a session at the 2005 meeting of this group in San Francisco at which an ALBC progress report will be made. The 2006 meeting will be in Washington, D.C., and two ALBC sessions will be held—one will be a progress report and the other will be an academic session on the state of Lincoln scholarship today. Dr. Bandler noted that collaboration with the OAH allows us to make use of the Advisory Committee. Dr. Bigham added that another collaborative opportunity existed with the OAH's *Talking History* radio program. Members of the Advisory Committee could participate in this program. The OAH would like to have three to five minutes every week devoted to comment on Abraham Lincoln. Dr. Bigham noted that the first priority is the San Francisco meeting. Mr. Holzer added that the opportunity to submit an article to the OAH's *Magazine of History* is also pressing. Mr. Bishop asked if it might be possible for the ALBC to have a booth at the OAH San Francisco convention. Mr. Holzer added that we could have an internet connection to focus attention on our website. All the Commissioners agreed that this was a good idea.

At this point in the meeting, Bill Beaver of Senator Bunning's staff arrived.

Dr. Bandler asked Dr. Bigham if waiting until September for action on his Implementation Plan fit his timeline. Mr. Holzer urged that we move this project along as expeditiously as possible. Mr. Bishop explained that the Project with Mr. Percoco was doable and that we would need to move to the Teacher Training project later since it is more costly. Mr. Holzer concluded his Ad Hoc Committee appointments to include himself, Dr. Boritt, and perhaps, Dr. James McPherson. This committee will see to it that the project receives internal and teacher review.

### **Mandate Committee Report**

Mr. Holzer requested that Dr. Bandler give the Mandate Committee report. She noted that the next major step was to obtain consultation. She would like to have Congressional recommendations as to the next steps. She would also like to have National Park Service advice and support. Congressman LaHood agreed that his staff will meet with Dr. Bandler. Mr. Bishop noted that he intended to have a meeting of the Congressional staff in August to formally map out strategy regarding the coin and the stamp. Mr. Holzer urged us to move ahead quickly on the penny so that we are not delayed by an emotional focus on the dime. Dr. Bandler also discussed committee recommendations regarding the report to Congress.

Senator Durbin and a member of his staff, Pat Souders joined the meeting at this time.

### **Public Outreach Committee Report**

Mr. Holzer asked Ms. Flinspach to give this report. She noted that Mr. Holzer and Mr. Waterston's wonderful presentation at the Cooper Union accomplished this particular project for the Public Outreach Committee and that the only remaining step is to get C-SPAN to replay it next year on the 145<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the speech. Mr. Bishop informed the Commissioners that the new Executive Director of the Soldiers Home project has returned to teaching. We will be able to plan something at that location to assist in bringing attention to it after the new hire is complete. Ms. Flinspach asked Michael Bishop to provide information about his meeting with Michael Pack, Executive Vice President of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Mr. Bishop

explained that they are the likely network to air a documentary about Abraham Lincoln. Mr. Pack agreed that there might be a role for the ALBC in the peer review process for NEH. Mr. Bishop and Ms. Flinspach will work together to develop a plan to select a production house. Ms. Flinspach requested that Mr. Bishop distribute copies of recent documentaries created by production houses currently under consideration before the September meeting. Ms. Flinspach noted that she would delay any comment on the website until the budget presentation.

### **Executive Director Report**

Mr. Holzer asked Mr. Bishop to give the Executive Director's report. Mr. Bishop introduced Ryan Cole, the new Executive Assistant and noted that Jackie Williams is now the ALBC Project Manager. He has interviewed three candidates for the development position and asked the Commissioners to refer any additional candidates to him. He then noted the status of funds included in his attached report. Ms. Flinspach asked for clarification on the financial report. She received confirmation that the current balance is approximately \$483,000 and that next year's appropriation is \$500,000. Mr. Bishop explained that when he completes his efforts to fill out the staff with a development officer and a public relations officer, we would be dipping into the balance of \$483,000. Ms. Flinspach then asked if the budget for next year would be approximately \$900,000. Mr. Bishop said that the budget would not be that high. Congressman LaHood renewed his request for a Finance Committee. Mr. Holzer agreed and appointed Chief Justice Williams, Senator Durbin, Congressman LaHood, himself, Judge Turner and Ms. Flinspach to the committee. Senator Durbin went on to say that obtaining a 100% increase for an appropriation is a tough sell. Mr. Bishop noted that he will maintain a hard line on growth. The Budget Committee will give a full report in September.

### **Interim Report**

At this point, the Commission moved on to a discussion of the Interim Report to Congress. Mr. Bishop made detailed notes of the recommended changes, so they are not duplicated here. As to approach, the Commissioners went through the document page by page and discussed all substantive changes. Dr. Bigham recommended that the report be placed on the website when concluded. Mr. Holzer noted that revisions must be submitted in the next 48 hours.

Senator Durbin asked Ms. Flinspach to send the co-chairs a report noting the Commissioners' attendance. She agreed to do so.

During the Interim Report discussion Congressman LaHood recommended that Mr. Bishop send a copy of it to Richard Norton Smith for comment. The Commissioners concurred.

At the end of the Interim Report, a decision was made to send the revised report to all Commissioners for review. They will have 24 hours ONLY to respond, so that we can have the report submitted at or before deadline. The Commissioners agreed to notify the Advisory Committee when the report is final.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on September 20<sup>th</sup> in Fort Wayne. The February meeting will be in February before the 12<sup>th</sup> in Washington, D.C. We will meet in April at Springfield to coordinate

with the opening of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum. We will meet at the Lincoln Boyhood home at a future date in 2005.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Holzer asked for a motion. Chief Justice Williams so moved, and Senator Durbin seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan L. Flinspach, Secretary