

Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission
Meeting #18, May 1, 2006, 8:15 a.m.*
Nancy Hanks Lincoln Hall, Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial
Lincoln City, Indiana

ATTENDANCE

Present were Dr. Jean Bandler, Dr. Darrel Bigham, Dr. Gabor Boritt, Mrs. Julie Cellini, the Hon. Dick Durbin, Ms. Joan Flinspach, Mr. Harold Holzer (by phone), the Hon. Ray LaHood, the Hon. Tommy Turner, the Hon. Frank Williams (by phone), Mr. Michael Bishop, Executive Director, Mrs. Jennifer Rosenfeld, Program Director, and Mr. David Early, Communications Director, Ms. Genevieve Courbois (by phone), and Ms. Roberta Schutz (by phone). Congressional staff included Mr. Pat Souders from Senator Durbin's office, Ms. Diane Liesman, Mrs. Joan DeBoer from Congressman LaHood's office and Mr. Larry Ordner, from Senator Lugar's office. Guests included: Ms. Cheryl Hurst, reporter for the *Spencer County Leader*, Mr. Brad Young, Manager of the Lincoln State Park, Ms. Leslie Townsend, Coordinator of Historic Southern Indiana, Mr. Randy Wester, Superintendent of the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial and Mr. Kevin Erikson from the *Indiana Magazine of History*.

CALL TO ORDER/MINUTES

Congressman LaHood called the meeting to order at 8:15* a.m. He asked the Commissioners to go into Executive Session. Notes were not taken of the Executive Session. The Commissioners returned to session at 8:25* a.m. Congressman LaHood asked if there were any changes to the February minutes. Hearing no changes, Dr. Bigham moved and Judge Turner seconded a motion to approve the minutes. It carried.

PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Bigham introduced Mr. Wester, the National Park Service Superintendent of the Lincoln Boyhood National Monument. Mr. Wester provided a brief orientation to the park, the location for our meeting and then introduced Mr. Capps, Park Historian. Mr. Capps gave the Commissioners a brief history of the park.

Dr. Bigham then introduced Ms. Leslie Townsend, Coordinator of Historic Southern Indiana, who presented an update of the activities of the Lincoln Tri-State group. This group consists of representatives from the three states where Abraham Lincoln resided—Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois. This group rotates their meeting locations to one of the three states; is planning for traveling exhibitions for non-museum locations within the three states; is creating a passport program to encourage Lincoln tourism during the bicentennial; and is working to arrange for Familiarization Tours of the Lincoln sites. A website is being planned. Ms. Townsend also introduced background information about Historic Southern Indiana, an organization committed to preserving and presenting the heritage of Southern Indiana.

BUDGET

Congressman LaHood recommended that since some Commissioners needed to leave early, we should first discuss the budget. Mr. Bishop presented the budget. The salaries reflect six FTEs and a three-month window of overlap to hire a new

Development Director because Ms. Jackie Williams is retiring. Mr. Bishop reviewed the travel expenses and listed the assumptions behind them. Congressman LaHood asked for questions. Dr. Bandler asked if the travel costs took into account rising travel and fuel costs, which are driving airfares up. She commented on the progressive growth of the budget over the last three years and asked that a Finance Committee review this budget and make a recommendation before the Commission votes on the budget. Mr. Holzer noted that the overall increase in the size of the budget was due to the growing increase in the size of the staff. Senator Durbin inquired as to the amount paid to Metropolitan Group for fund raising. Mr. Bishop answered that we have paid \$99,000. Senator Durbin noted that we have paid Metropolitan Group \$99,000 and asked Mr. Bishop how much we had raised. The answer was \$37,000. He explained that this level of performance does not provide him with a reason to urge Senatorial colleagues to support our allocation. Dr. Bigham echoed Dr. Bandler's request for a Finance Committee. He noted that its makeup should include the Program Committee Chairs and discussed the Education position as an example of the relevance of including Program Committee Chairs. Dr. Boritt added that the Commissioners are not helping the fund raising effort, due to conflicts in commitments. Congressman LaHood asked that those who want to volunteer to serve on the Finance Committee should email his office and Senator Durbin's. [The Co-Chairs will appoint a Finance Committee.](#)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Congressman LaHood asked Mr. Bishop to present the Executive Director's report. Mr. Bishop's written report was included in the Commission packets distributed to all the Commissioners prior to the meeting and [it will be filed as an attachment to the minutes in the ALBC offices.](#)

Mr. Bishop updated the Commissioners on Commission activities. A C-SPAN proposal will be presented to the Commission in May. We have 88 supporters in the House of Representatives for the Commemorative Coin and 14 in the Senate. Congressman LaHood stated that only two Commemorative Coins are permitted each year and the Speaker of the House is holding one of these two positions open for us. Mr. Bishop added that the State Liaisons are assisting with this effort.

Mr. Bishop cited the letter from Professor Richard Carwardine of Oxford that was included in the Commission packets. In it he wants to work with the Commission to plan an international conference about Abraham Lincoln. Mr. Bishop suggested that we substitute this conference for the International Conference in Salzburg recommended in the strategic plan. Dr. Bigham noted that the strategic plan actually calls for two international conferences and that the second conference—on Lincoln, slavery and race—is being planned by an Education Subcommittee. Mrs. Cellini asked that a response to Dr. Carwardine make clear that we are not in a position to fund a conference at Oxford. Dr. Bigham indicated that the Carwardine proposal had been received in February, and that the office had been encouraged to request details from him at the time. The Education Committee, which met in April by conference call, reiterated that request, and one of its members indicated that the American Historical Association might be interested in being a partner. Dr. Bigham urged Mr. Bishop to request details from Dr. Carwardine, so that the Education Committee, which meets June 13, can review it and make recommendations for the next commission meeting. Until that time, no decision can

be made about substituting one conference with another. Regarding Dr. Horton's earlier proposal for a conference to be held in conjunction with the Salzburg Institute, Dr. Bigham stated that no details had been provided the Education Committee and that for the time being, until Dr. Horton returns from leave, the proposal is on the back burner.

Mr. Bishop updated the Commissioners about the Library of Congress traveling exhibit, which will be the official exhibit of the bicentennial. A proposal from National History Day will be reviewed under Program Committee reports. Under the topic of fund raising we have four members of the Lincoln Cabinet. A pathway to Ted Turner has been provided. Additional cultivation meetings are planned with Boeing, Borders, and the National Association of Realtors. Three out of four of the Lincoln Cabinet members will be meeting the financial obligation required. Mr. Holzer said that Mario Cuomo is the exception. Dr. Boritt pointed out that the use of his name lends us strength in recruiting other members. Congressman LaHood asked what our overall goal is. Mr. Bishop responded that it is \$80,000,000. Dr. Bigham asked that we review the strategy that Metropolitan Group is using. Congressman LaHood referred the matter to the Finance Committee.

PROGRAMS REPORT

Education Committee: Mrs. Rosenfeld noted that we have added seven new members to this committee. She referenced the National History Day proposal that will be considered by the Commission under Unfinished Business. She noted the proposed International Conference at Oxford and the progress with the American Library Association. This association has prepared a Lincoln booklist for young readers.

Public Participation Committee: A proposal has been submitted to the National Association of Realtors for funding for the *Forever Free* traveling exhibit. Funds for the project were to have been raised by early March. In terms of The Library of Congress traveling exhibition, the Library is assembling a time table for the exhibit plan. It will travel to four major cities including Atlanta—a placement in the South as requested by the Committee. A draft Memorandum of Agreement between the ALBC and the LOC was distributed for Commissioner input. Ms. Flinspach asked which Commissioners were going to serve as Advisors for this exhibit. Mr. Bishop responded that they are Mr. Holzer and Dr. Boritt. Senator Durbin asked how much we would be expected to provide financially. Mr. Bishop responded that this is still being negotiated. Mrs. Rosenfeld said that the Library of Congress is completing the educational program component of the exhibit budget and that figure will estimate the ALBC's commitment. For the National Town Halls, a proposal has been received from the National Issues Forum and that staff review of this proposal is underway.

Public Awareness: The ALBC staff has reminded the United States Mint of our desire to comment on the penny design. Support for the Commemorative Coin is growing. [Judge Turner asked the staff to again provide us with a list of the legislators not on board from each of our states.](#) A question was raised about the Lincoln stamp project. The Postal Service will consider this stamp in the fall. [Dr. Bandler asked the ALBC staff to contact Mrs. Taper and ask her to encourage Mr. Karl Malden to support our request.](#)

Legacy: This committee has added one new member. The Mayor of the District of Columbia supports the sculpture garden project. The National Capital Planning Commission and the ALBC staff are undertaking site visits. This Commission requires

110% of funding be in place before construction can begin. The extra 10% is to cover contingencies and maintenance. The staff is drafting a list of Lincoln place names for the Lincoln Plaque project.

Endorsement: The new application was reviewed by all of the committees and is up on the website for use by applicants. In response to a question, Mrs. Rosenfeld stated that an endorsement permits use of our logo and listing of this project in promotion material.

Next Steps: In the next 3-6 months lesson plans for High School use will be completed. A push is on for the Commemorative Coin. The National Endowment for the Humanities will select a documentary film maker this summer. Site review for the sculpture garden will continue. The National Issues Forum's proposal will be reviewed and a recommendation made. Dr. Bigham asked for a status report on the website listing of the Speakers Bureau. Mrs. Rosenfeld explained that we lack the funding to provide search capability. In response to Dr. Bigham's query about why we needed funds, she responded that that funding was for a searchable database. A simple list would cost us nothing. Dr. Bigham and Mr. Holzer recommended that we just list the names for now. [Staff will do so.](#) Dr. Boritt informed the Commissioners of the progress on the Spielberg movie to be released in 2008. This will be a household reminder of Abraham Lincoln.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Before Congressman LaHood asked for the Communications Report, Mr. Holzer informed us that prior to leaving the meeting for a half-hour; he wanted to report on the C-SPAN project. This network will submit a media proposal for our review at the next meeting. Their involvement could be quite large and span from 2008 through 2010—including coverage of all three signature events; ALBC programs, a re-airing or remake of the Lincoln-Douglas Debates, a regular programming slot and educational collaboration. Mr. Holzer noted that this would not be an exclusive media proposal. We will encourage coverage by all media. Mrs. Cellini asked that the entire Public Relations plan be presented and that it include the C-SPAN proposal. [Mr. Bishop stated that one will be available at the next meeting.](#) Senator Durbin encouraged the staff to create interactivity on the website. [Dr. Bigham recommended that the Program Committees be consulted on the media plan.](#) Dr. Bandler interjected enthusiasm about the C-SPAN plan. Ms. Flinspach asked if the Commission needed to supply C-SPAN with feedback at this time. Mr. Holzer said no. Mrs. Cellini moved that a Public Relations plan be presented at the next meeting. Senator Durbin seconded this motion and it carried. The History Channel does not plan as far out as C-SPAN. The staff will meet with the History Channel next February. Mr. Early distributed draft media kits. He noted that they will be customized for each use. Lastly he summarized the webpage traffic. We received a good bump in February. Mrs. Cellini asked when the on-line newsletter will be available and Mr. Early responded that it will be available at the end of the week. Senator Durbin again encouraged interactivity on the website and suggested that the Advisory group be consulted for ideas.

NEW BUSINESS

At this time Senator Durbin needed to leave. He asked to present this New Business item. He composed the following letter:

Dear

As the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission continues its important work to honor the life and legacy of our namesake, we appreciate your willingness to serve.

In the months ahead we will be working to make certain all of our preparation and planning culminates in a 2009 observance worthy of the trust placed in the Commission.

We know that there are times when the press of personal and professional responsibilities in our lives requires us to reconsider our priorities. That leads us to ask you to make an honest evaluation of your willingness and availability to continue to serve on our Commission.

Specifically, are you willing to continue to serve on the Commission and to dedicate a reasonable amount of your time and talent to make it successful?

If you can, we look forward to continuing our work together.

If you cannot, we thank you for all of your work and will notify the appropriate appointing authority that there is a vacancy in your position.

Please respond to this letter in writing or by email no later June 1, or we will assume you will no longer be serving on the Commission.

Attached you will find an amendment to the bylaws which will be offered at our next quarterly meeting.

Amendment to Bylaws

Commission members are expected to attend the quarterly meetings. Should any member miss two successive meetings, the Board through its Executive Director, shall notify the member in writing. The member will be given a reasonable opportunity not to exceed 30 days after the last quarterly meeting to respond in writing to the Board as to whether the member wishes to continue to serve. The Board will review the member's response and decide at its next quarterly meeting whether to notify the appointing authority that a vacancy exists.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

National History Day (NHD) Presentation—Congressman LaHood asked Dr. Bigham to introduce this topic. Dr. Bigham gave a brief background of our involvement with National History Day and then turned the presentation over to Ms. Rosenfeld to present. She reviewed the proposal which is attached and [will be on file in the ALBC office](#). After the presentation Dr. Bandler requested information on the obligations we would be undertaking if we vote on this proposal. Mr. Bishop and Dr. Bigham both explained that this is a commitment to a partnership with NHD. Mrs. Cellini asked what action is needed. Mr. Bishop answered that we needed to adopt this plan for an official partnership with NHD. Dr. Boritt asked if we should not wait until the next meeting when a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be presented. Congressman

LaHood asked Dr. Bigham to make a motion. He moved that the Commission commit to a partnership, knowing that details will be finalized in an MOU at the next meeting. Dr. Bandler seconded the motion and it carried. Dr. Bigham added the financial commitment of the MOU could be pared back more.

February 13th Meeting Survey—Mrs. Rosenfeld presented the survey results. Mrs. Cellini referred to the funding needs list at the end of the Development Report. She wanted to know what items we are committed to. Mr. Bishop answered that all of the items except the first one (funding for *Forever Free*) are wish-list items. There is a pending request for funding out to the National Association of Realtors for the *Forever Free* exhibit. He noted that in the case of an emergency, we could take the required funding from our budget. He was asked if this legal. He responded that it is undesirable but legal.

NEW BUSINESS

International Lincoln Conference—Oxford University Mr. Bishop noted that some discussion on this proposal has already taken place. Dr. Bigham stated that we need a proposal and that [said proposal should be referred to the Education Committee.](#) [Congressman LaHood directed that this procedure be followed.](#)

Scholastic Partnership—Mr. Bishop remarked that this partnership will result in many collaborations. [Congressman LaHood stated that when this proposal arrives, it will be referred to the Education Committee.](#) Mr. Holzer indicated that we have had no discussion regarding the possibility of using federal monies to afford some of our programs. He suggested that maybe that discussion should take place. Congressman LaHood agreed that this option should be discussed.

Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2007—The budget was referred to the Finance Committee.

Development Contract-- This item was referred to the Finance Committee.

Lincoln State Commemorations—Mr. Bishop presented the attached memo which [will be on file in the ALBC office.](#) Ms. Flinspach and Dr. Bandler both encouraged the addition of the C-SPAN reenactment of the Lincoln-Douglas debates to the Illinois list of events. Dr. Bigham encouraged the Commissioners to examine the Lincoln Sesquicentennial Report which is available online at www.questia.com. He added that the Sesquicentennial Commission had its first meeting in December 1957 and its mission emphasized grassroots planning. Dr. Bigham noted that the report contains a number of strategies that we might consider, especially on pages xiii, 11-12, and 14.

New Endorsements—Education—Dr. Bigham presented the first three endorsements that had all been approved by the Education Committee. After a brief discussion, Dr. Bigham moved and Judge Turner seconded a motion that these three endorsement proposals be approved. Congressman LaHood called for the vote. The motion carried. [These endorsements will be on file in the ALBC office.](#)

Public Participation—Ms. Flinspach presented endorsement proposals d, e, and f. [These endorsements will be on file in the ALBC office.](#) She moved that they be approved and Dr. Boritt seconded the motion. It carried. Dr. Bigham commented on the geographic diversity of these proposals and noted that this is a nationwide celebration.

Public Awareness—Judge Turner presented proposals g and f. [These endorsements will be on file in the ALBC office.](#) He moved for approval and Dr. Bandler seconded the motion. It carried.

Announcements—Dr. Boritt congratulated Dr. Bigham on his new book, *On Jordan's Banks*. Judge Turner noted that this book was published by the University of Kentucky Press.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Congressman LaHood announced that our next meeting will be in Los Angeles July 23 and 24. Mr. Bishop added that arrangements are being made and that hopefully we will have a fund raising event hosted by Mrs. Taper. The fall 2006 meeting might be held in Chicago or Springfield. If it is held in Chicago, October 28th, the date of the Chicago Lincoln Colloquium would be a time when many Lincoln people are already gathering. We will return to Washington, D.C. for the February 2007 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Congressman LaHood asked if there was any further business to come before the Commission. He then thanked everyone who assisted in logistics for the meeting and the Commissioners. The meeting was adjourned at 11:20* a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan L. Flinspach
Secretary

*Central Daylight Time