

**Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission
Meeting # 2, November 19, 2001, Noon
at Pennsylvania Hall, Gettysburg College,
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania**

Present were Dr. Jean Bandler, Dr. Darrel Bigham, Dr. Gabor Boritt, Hon. Richard Durbin, Joan Flinspach, Harold Holzer, Hon. Ray LaHood, Lura Lynn Ryan, Hon. James Thompson, Hon. Tommy Turner, and Hon. Frank Williams. Congressional staff included Diane Liesman, and Joan Mitchell with the Hon. Ray LaHood's office; Jackie Williams, Mark Palmer and Pat and Amy Souders from the Hon. Richard Durbin's office. Kim Taylor attended the meeting via conference call on behalf of the Hon. Jim Bunning. Mr. John Webster from the Library of Congress participated in the meeting.

Harold Holzer, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. He welcomed everyone and commented on the wonderful ceremony we had witnessed on this historic day.

The ceremony, held prior to the meeting, included a wreath laying and speeches at the Gettysburg National Historic Military Park. The Hon. Richard Durbin was the featured speaker and James Getty, a Lincoln impersonator, reenacted the delivery of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

Following Mr. Holzer's welcome, Dan DeNicola, Provost of Gettysburg College, welcomed the Commissioners. He informed us about the history of the College which was founded in 1832 as an ecumenical institution on Thaddeus Stevens' family farm.

Mr. Holzer asked that the Congressional staff attending the meeting introduce themselves. John Webster of the Library of Congress also introduced himself.

In our first item of business, Mr. Webster presented an interagency agreement between the Library of Congress and the ALBC. Mr. Webster stated that administrative support would be provided by the Library of Congress on a reimburseable basis, (See the attached interagency agreement for detailed information.), but the Library collections and staff would be available, without charge, to support the Bicentennial program. Mr. Webster noted in answer to a question from Mr. Holzer that two workstations would be available immediately, and a total of four or five of them would be available in the spring. Mr. Holzer announced that these additional workstations would be for Commissioners' use while in Washington. Chief Justice Frank Williams moved, and Ms. Flinspach seconded that the agreement be adopted. The motion passed.

Mr. Holzer brought the Commissioners' attention to a copy of the amended enabling legislation. Mr. Holzer noted that our first appropriation of funds--\$461,000--will be available through September 30, 2002, and that all future appropriations will not have spend-by deadlines attached to them. Ms. Flinspach asked for a clarification about the tax deductibility of the new language allowing for the receipt of gifts. Mr. Webster will

check with the lawyers at the Library of Congress to see if gifts to the commission are tax deductible and report back to the Commissioners.

Mr. Holzer asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Judge Turner moved this, and Chief Justice Frank Williams seconded the motion. It passed.

Mrs. Lura Lynn Ryan and the Hon. James Thompson arrived at this point in the meeting. Mr. Holzer provided a brief recap of activity.

Ms. Flinspach presented the attached Search Committee report. Chief Justice Frank Williams noted that the committee needed a decision about hiring Korn/Ferry as a search firm. The committee had negotiated a discounted rate estimated at \$50,000. The committee did not present a recommendation to hire the firm and asked instead for input from the Commissioners. The sense of the Commission was not to use Korn/Ferry. Dr. Bigham asked about a timeline, and Chief Justice Frank Williams estimated that the hire would take at least six months. Discussion followed as to whether a management requirement would be secondary to that of knowledge of Abraham Lincoln. It was agreed that the ad copy would be changed to include knowledge of Abraham Lincoln as well as management experience.

At this point, Mr. Holzer asked everyone to introduce himself or herself.

Mr. Holzer introduced the information provided by Jackie Williams, Office Manager to the Senator Durbin. Ms. Williams is available to the Commission as an interim director. Congressman Ray LaHood moved that the Commission reimburse her salary and accept her as interim director. Chief Justice Williams seconded the motion, and it passed. Mr. Holzer asked that the minutes reflect that the Commission acknowledges the ruling of the Senate Ethics Committee in approving this action.

Chief Justice Williams moved that Joan Flinspach be appointed Secretary to the Commission. Judge Turner seconded the motion, and it passed. Ms. Flinspach stated that she is honored to serve.

Mr. Holzer led a discussion of committees. Chief Justice Williams and Judge Turner moved and seconded, respectively, that the Executive Committee be a committee of the whole. Chief Justice Williams recommended that a Bylaws Committee be established, and Mr. Holzer suggested that a Publications Committee be created. Chief Justice Williams moved, and Senator Durbin seconded a motion that as of this date seven committees would be organized. They include: Executive, Advisory, Project, Fund Raising, Legislative, Bylaws and Publications. Ad Hoc Committees such as the Search Committee will be instituted as needed. The motion passed. Mr. Holzer began a discussion of committee chairs and it was decided that we would return to this topic later in the meeting.

Mr. Holzer broached the issue of hiring a public relations firm. Two candidates had submitted material—Jasculca/Terman and Susan Davis International. Some of the packets sent to the Commissioners in advance were incomplete. This affected discussion. The larger issue of objectives and accomplishments was raised. Dr. Bigham

recommended setting short- and long-term objectives. Chief Justice Williams noted that the most needed short-term objective is to make the public aware that the ALBC is operating and that this should be completed by February. We could work with the long-term mission at a later time. Dr. Bandler commented that she felt we would be premature to hire a public relations firm at this time unless it was on a trial basis. Mr. Holzer said that the purpose of an announcement is to engender ideas and to solicit the presentation of projects. Dr. Bigham responded that the short-term topics could be to announce that we exist in February and to announce the advisory board. Senator Durbin added that a website is a critical initial tool. Chief Justice Williams and Dr. Boritt also agreed that this should be a short-term objective.

Chief Justice Williams moved that the hiring of a public relations firm be delegated to the co-chairs with the authority to solicit budgets for an announcement, reception and website. Discussion ensued. Mr. Webster noted that he would look into whether the Library of Congress can host the website as an independent website (not a subset of the Library of Congress website). Independence was desired both for our appearance as a separate agency from the Library of Congress and due to the lack of speed in opening the website belonging to the Library of Congress. Congressman LaHood asked that other public relations firms be considered in addition to the two previously mentioned. Chief Justice Williams stated that the pending motion did not prohibit the co-chairs from investigating other firms. At this point Dr. Boritt seconded the pending motion. Mr. Holzer called for a vote, and it passed.

Mr. Holzer went through the lists of proposed Advisory Board members received to date. Diane Liesman distributed the lists that she had received. Ms. Williams will consolidate all the names alphabetically and key them by nominator. She will email this document to the commissioners. It was recommended that we add more African-American scholars, international scholars, film professionals, public historians and K-12 teachers. Dr. Boritt asked if each state had its own commission. Illinois has a commission. Judge Turner stated that Kentucky will introduce similar legislation during the next legislative term. Dr. Bigham responded that both he and Ms. Flinspach have written to encourage the Governor of Indiana to establish such a commission. Mr. Holzer noted that the co-chairs believed that the Advisory Board should contain 100 members.

Mr. Holzer addressed the final agenda item—projects. Three projects have been submitted to date. Dr. Boritt emphasized that he had submitted his project early due to his understanding that we might lose the funds appropriated in the previous budget year. Since we have been informed that those funds are available until September 2002, he said that an immediate decision was not necessary. His project consists of creating a pamphlet of the words of Abraham Lincoln, translating them into many languages and distributing them as broadly as possible. Senator Durbin and Dr. Boritt both mentioned working with the State Department as a potential supporter. Mr. Holzer noted that this would also make an excellent website project.

At this point in the discussion Dr. Bandler asked that an ethics officer address the Commission to inform us about the protocol of such a project. Dr. Boritt responded that he would do this project for free and that the project budget was to pay the staff that would carry out work in addition to his role. Senator Durbin suggested that Dr. Boritt's

project involve asking educators how best to reach students in this country and researching the role that the State Department could play in promoting it abroad.

Chief Justice Williams discussed Commission projects suggesting that we study what was done at the Sesquicentennial. He recommended that a mission be drafted.

Dr. Bigham recommended that Dr. Boritt's publication be explored as a part of a committee assignment. Mr. Holzer raised the topic of committees overall and asked that Commissioners indicate where they want to serve. Mr. Holzer suggested that Dr. Boritt, Chief Justice Williams, Dr. Horton and Dr. Bigham serve on the Publications Committee.

Judge Turner and Chief Justice Williams agreed to serve on the Bylaws Committee. Dr. Bigham and Dr. Bandler were interested in the Project Committee. Mr. Holzer raised the point, and the Commissioners agreed, that the Publications Committee would become a Sub-Committee of the Projects Committee. Senator Durbin, Congressman LaHood and Senator Bunning ought to be part of the Legislative Committee. Kim Taylor, on the phone for Senator Bunning, will check with him. After surveying them, almost all of the Commissioners wanted to serve on the Project Committee, so it was established as a committee of the whole. Mr. Holzer confirmed that Dr. Horton, Chief Justice Williams, Dr. Boritt and Dr. Bigham would serve on the Publications Sub-Committee. Chief Justice Williams and Judge Turner will draft bylaws for review by the Commissioners. These bylaws will include a Commission mission as a preamble.

Lura Lynn Ryan invited the Commission to Springfield for its February meeting. She would host us at the executive mansion. Judge Turner reminded the Commissioners of his previous invitation to join him in Kentucky in February. This invitation includes the President of the United States and other dignitaries who have been invited to attend the ceremony celebrating the transfer of the Lincoln Knob Creek Farm to the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site.

Mr. Webster announced that copies of the Gettysburg Address and information on its history had been given to each Commissioner. Dr. Bigham distributed a new pamphlet for Lincoln's Indiana, and Dr. Boritt handed out personalized copies of the new book, *Lincoln's Trail*. The co-chairs will set the date of the next meeting. Judge Turner moved that the meeting be adjourned. Chief Justice Williams seconded. The meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan L. Flinspach,
Secretary