

**Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission
Meeting #21, November 29, 2006, 10:00 a.m.
Whittall Pavilion, Jefferson Building, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.**

ATTENDANCE

Present were Dr. Jean Bandler, Dr. Bigham (by phone), Mrs. Julie Cellini (by phone), the Hon. Dick Durbin, Ms. Joan Flinspach, Mr. Harold Holzer (by phone), Dr. Jim Horton, the Hon. Ray LaHood, Mrs. Lura Lynn Ryan (by phone), the Hon. Tommy Turner, the Hon. Frank Williams, Ms. Eileen Mackevich, Executive Director, Mrs. Jennifer Rosenfeld, Program Director, Mr. David Early, Communications Director, Ms. Genevieve Courbois, Interim Development Director, and Ms. Roberta Schutz, Executive Assistant. Congressional staff included Mr. Pat Souders from Senator Durbin's office; Ms. Diane Liesman and Mrs. Joan DeBoer from Congressman LaHood's office; and Mr. Kenneth Edmonds from Congressman Jackson's office. Guests included Mr. David Leroy, Idaho State Liaison and Ms. Dori Meinert, a correspondent with Copley News Service.

Congressman LaHood called the meeting to order at 10:10 am. He welcomed Mr. David Leroy and asked him to introduce himself to the Commission. Mr. Leroy is the Chairman of the Idaho Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and among numerous prestigious positions has been the former Lt. Governor of Idaho. Congressman LaHood asked the Commissioners to introduce themselves to Mr. Leroy.

MINUTES

Congressman LaHood bypassed the minutes pending the arrival of more Commissioners who were enroute both in person and by phone.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (**Attached**)

Ms. Mackevich referred to the printed report under Tab B in the Commissioner's packets. Rather than repeat this information, she first spoke of the information she had gleaned from a "kitchen" cabinet of funders that she consults regularly. The activities she emphasized included: a photography exhibit, educational programs reflecting the demographics of the US public schools, and the changed perspective of the former Confederate States. She noted her development of a fund raising team by drawing on staff skills across functional lines. Congressman LaHood asked if there were questions for Ms. Mackevich. Dr. Horton commented on the role of Lincoln in African-American Memory and **agreed to distribute copies of a recent article he has authored on this topic. Ms. Flinspach asked that, as he completed his 2006 McMurtry Lecture delivered at The Lincoln Museum, that it be brought before the Commission to be considered as the Commission's official stand on the issue of Lincoln and African American History. Ms. Mackevich called on Commissioners to add some of the "new immigrants" to the advisory group.**

FINANCIALS

Congressman LaHood noted that Congress has passed a Continuing Resolution meaning that the Commission will continue to be funded at '06 levels until a new budget is passed. The budget for 2007 was included in the packets and **will be attached to the minutes.**

KENTUCKY KICK-OFF

Congressman LaHood asked Judge Turner to give this report. Judge Turner distributed a handout that **will be filed with the minutes.** Judge Turner emphasized that the ownership of these events needs to belong to the Commission. It will take place on February 12, 2008, at the Lincoln Birthplace National Park from 1-2 p.m. The President of the United States has been invited to speak. Other possible speakers include the Governor of Kentucky, members of the Kentucky Congressional Delegation, a National Park Service representative—possibly a historian, Co-chairs of the ALBC Commission, and an Emcee. Activities might include playing an original musical piece commissioned by the Louisville Symphony for the Bicentennial and the unveiling of a plaque. Pre- and post-event activities are possible. The invitation list is open. Judge Turner reviewed the budgets attached to the handouts stating that the regional office of the National Park Service will pay the estimated \$174,805.60 out of regional resources if necessary. If the NPS does that, they will control the event. If we are able to raise the funds, we will control the event. Chief Justice Williams asked what Judge Turner needed from the Commission. Congressman LaHood specifically inquired as to whether we would be making a financial commitment if this proposal is accepted. Judge Turner stated that we would not be doing so. Dr. Horton raised the possibility of matching some of the funds from the NPS with funds obtained through a grant from the NPS Foundation. Judge Turner noted that a tentative contribution of \$50,000 may be possible. Dr. Bandler inquired as to whether the Kentucky ALBC would contribute funds and Judge Turner indicated that they probably would not. Ms. Mackevich indicated that staff musings about this included drawing from famous Kentuckians—Diane Sawyer, for example. Congressman LaHood noted that the Commission did not take any action on this report, and he thanked Judge Turner for the thoroughness of it.

MINUTES (**Attached**)

Congressman LaHood returned to the minutes with the arrival of Senator Durbin, and the resolution of the technical problems so that Dr. Bigham, Mrs. Cellini, Mr. Holzer, and Mrs. Ryan could join the meeting on the phone. Congressman LaHood asked for corrections and/or additions to the minutes. There being none, Senator Durbin moved they be approved and Chief Justice Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried.

REPORTS—Communications Report (**Attached**)

Congressman LaHood asked Mr. Early to make the Communications Report. Mr. Early noted that his report was in two sections and that he would start with the second section, the Speakers' Bureau Promotion. Mr. Early recommended that the promotion of the Speakers' Bureau be combined with the travel of the "Forever Free" exhibit, since booking of this exhibit by libraries required the presentation of at least one public program. There being no questions on this topic, Mr. Early moved on to the discussion

of the ALBC website. The discovery phase to determine content of the website is critical. Mr. Early will solicit proposals from at least three vendors to undertake the design and development phase. Mr. Holzer asked if there were any Abraham Lincoln Chat Rooms. Mr. Early responded that Brian Dirck has one. At this time, Ms. Flinspach stepped out of the meeting briefly. Mrs. Rosenfeld took minutes while she was out. Senator Durbin noted that on-line petitions have been successful at driving traffic to websites. He suggested asking people to vote on what designs they would like to see for the new Lincoln pennies. Ms. Mackevich said that the website could become a legacy piece and could go to a university or other organization after the ALBC sunsets. She noted that the ALBC website currently has about 1,000 subscribers. Senator Durbin suggested an annual Lincoln award where the public is asked to submit nominations on the ALBC website. Commissioner Horton suggested giving winners copies of the Lincoln Prize book.

Senator Durbin said that Senator Barbara Boxer has over 400,000 people on her email lists, while John Kerry has over 3 million people. Ms. Mackevich asked that Commissioners provide names and emails to increase subscription to the ALBC website. She promised that the first contact would not be a solicitation, however if recipients joined onto the ALBC list, then they would receive solicitations in the future.

Commissioner Turner inquired about funding to support the website. Mr. Early replied that according to Meg Williams, the Library of Congress' counsel, we cannot sell advertising on the site, but we can acknowledge sponsors. Ms. Mackevich stated that once the Commission's 501(c)3 is established, we could have a section on the website acknowledging donors. Senator Durbin recommended that at the next meeting Mr. Early invite several Internet experts to speak to the Commission and that Ms. Mackevich report on the legal questions. Mr. Early suggested that the commemorative coin monies be used to maintain the website after it is passed onto another institution as a legacy. Congressman LaHood recommended that Mr. Early meet with Congressman Jackson who is very impassioned about the website's potential.

Fundraising Report (**Attached**)

Congressman LaHood asked for the Fundraising Report. Ms. Mackevich gave this report which was written by Ms. Williams prior to her retirement. Ms. Mackevich stated that she had begun to meet with foundations and individuals. The first step is to revise the case statement. Congressman LaHood raised the question of approaching (within the rules of Congress) foreign governments that have foundations. Dr. Horton said that Abraham Lincoln symbolized freedom worldwide. Chief Justice Williams inquired as to whether these governments might want something in return. Senator Durbin added that he would like to think about this idea. Dr. Bandler encouraged all of the Commissioners to support the fundraising efforts by submitting names of possible funders. Mr. Leroy, Utah Liaison, noted that Abraham Lincoln is widely respected in Japan and that the Meisi University offered studies in this area.

Public Awareness Committee Report (**Attached**)

Judge Turner gave this report due to Mr. Holzer's absence. (Mr. Holzer stepped away from the meeting during the Communications Report for approximately 40 minutes.) Judge Turner, Dr. Bandler, Ms. Mackevich, and Mrs. Rosenfeld met with the Director of the Mint to discuss the penny redesign. Judge Turner offered thanks to Senator Durbin and Congressman LaHood for their leadership in the passage of the Commemorative Coin legislation. Judge Turner asked if the matching funds could come

from the Lincoln state commissions and then we would refund those funds to the states, but we would have met our matching requirements. Ms. Mackevich will check to see if this is a possibility. Chief Justice Williams asked if we could have the funds sooner than 2009. Judge Turner and Dr. Bandler will check on the Mint's timeline, but the legislation does state 2009.

A letter has been submitted to the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee outlining ideas for the stamp designs honoring Lincoln. A 1959 Library of Congress publication that translates the Gettysburg Address into various languages is now posted on our website.

Public Participation Committee Report ([Attached](#))

Congressman LaHood asked Ms. Flinspach to provide this report. Dr. Horton added at the end of this report that at the dedication of the Lincoln Memorial in 1922 seating was segregated by race and enforced by federal marshals. The Commissioners agreed that this was a story that should be told as a part of the history of Lincoln celebrations. Senator Durbin noted that he had inquired as to the use of the torches at the Lincoln Memorial and learned that they are merely decorative and have never been used. He wondered about the possibility of making them functional and the impact they could have as a part of the February 12, 2009 event.

ALBC Legacy Committee Report ([Attached](#))

Judge Turner presented this report at the request of Congressman LaHood. In addition to the written report, he added that the difficulty with the Sculpture Garden is the restriction on recognizing donors. Ms. Flinspach announced that Ms. Texley has left the staff of The Lincoln Museum and thus would not be working on the Lincoln Artifact Cooperative. Dr. Horton encouraged the Commissioners to see the "New York Divided: New York, Slavery and the Civil War" exhibit at the New York Historical Society. Mr. Holzer returned to the meeting.

ALBC Education Committee Report ([Attached](#))

Congressman LaHood asked Dr. Bigham to present this report. He noted that Ms. Mackevich has contacted the Gilder Lehrman Institute and the lesson plans will be mounted on the website soon. She has also met with Cathy Gorn of National History Day to begin planning a financially feasible set of projects. He cited an update in the information about the International Conference on Lincoln, Emancipation and Race. It is scheduled to be held in April 2009. The second international conference on "The Global Lincoln," will add non-academicians to its list of keynote speakers. Dr. Bigham noted that several teachers on the Education Committee were developing the plan to identify "Lincoln Schools" that create plans for observing the bicentennial, and that Jennifer, Eileen and he had participated in a conference call in October with representatives of "Tapped In," a program of the Stanford Research Institute that has over 21,000 participants world-wide. This is a cost-free venture that could expand ALBC outreach to teachers via a number of web-based programs. Julie Cellini added that the Lincoln Library and Museum has had a great deal of demand for its educational programs on the web. Dr. Bigham noted that it is a goal of the committee to place such links and those of other groups (like the recent addition of six electronic lesson plans by the Indiana Humanities Council) under one umbrella site on the ALBC web site to facilitate teachers' access to a variety of teaching aids.

COMMITTEE RESTRUCTURING (**Attached**)

Congressman LaHood called on Mrs. Rosenfeld to present the Committee Restructuring proposal to the Commission. Mrs. Rosenfeld listed the benefits of consolidating our current committee structure into the proposed one—it would improve staff productivity and integrate programs and events. She specifically noted that this was a draft proposal for discussion purposes. During discussion Dr. Bandler asked where the advisors would best fit into this structure. Ms. Mackevich stated that the staff has not yet determined the advisor roles. Congressman LaHood suggested that a letter be sent to them to ask them to volunteer and suggest where we would need their skills the most. Dr. Bandler asked that the Governance Committee become the funnel for new advisors. Senator Durbin urged that the Marketing Committee be renamed and stated that he would like to join that committee. He then moved that the structure be adopted with a new name for the Marketing Committee and adding the management of the Advisory Group to the Governance Committee. Judge Turner seconded this motion. It carried.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Congressman LaHood moved down the agenda to the topic of Future Meetings so that all the Commissioners present could participate in the discussion regarding the February meeting in Chicago. To accommodate the many demands surrounding Abraham Lincoln's birthday, the meeting will be held on Sunday, February 11th in Chicago. A 2:30 pm Roundtable discussion with a reception is planned with the African-American leadership in Chicago. A location for the Commission meeting will be found.

At 11:40 a.m., the Commission took a break for lunch. Congressman LaHood and Senator Durbin left the meeting for previous commitments. The meeting reconvened at 1:10 p.m. with Judge Turner as chair pro tem and the return of all those participating by phone.

PROPOSED FUND RAISING PACKAGES (**Attached**)

At Judge Turner's request Mrs. Rosenfeld reviewed the proposed fundraising packages. Under Package Two: Lincoln in the Schools, ALBC will become the clearinghouse—an online teacher resource center. Dr. Bigham asked about recognition of planning, and it was stated that this would be added. Chief Justice Williams inquired as to what will happen to projects not in these packages. Ms. Mackevich stated that these packages do represent a slimmed down version of the ALBC projects, but the projects not listed in these packages have not been discarded. Chief Justice Williams said that he believed that one of our duties in this meeting was to examine the projects and determine which ones we could actually accomplish. He continued by saying that the staff did a terrific job of putting these packages together. Ms. Mackevich added that the case statement will be out next week. **Judge Turner and Ms. Flinspach asked for a list of the projects which are not included in these packages. Ms. Mackevich said that the staff will prepare one and ask the Commissioners to help repackage the projects not initially included.** Chief Justice Williams moved that the Commissioners adopt these recommended packages subject to obtaining financing. Dr. Horton seconded the motion and it passed

ENDORSEMENTS (Attached)

Judge Turner asked Dr. Bigham to present the two endorsements recommended by the Education Committee. Dr. Bigham moved these approvals and Chief Justice Williams seconded them. The motion carried. Ms. Flinspach abstained from voting as one of the projects was submitted by The Lincoln Museum in Fort Wayne, Indiana, which she directs. Ms. Flinspach recommended the endorsements of the Lincoln Tomb Ceremony and the Remembrance Day Activities. Chief Justice Williams moved their approval and Dr. Horton seconded the motion. It carried.

FURTHER BUSINESS

Judge Turner brought this topic to order. Dr. Bandler asked that each of the new committees appoint a member to take minutes and that the minutes be sent out quickly even if they are a draft. This recommendation will lesson the load on the staff. Dr. Bandler moved this technique be adopted and Ms. Flinspach seconded the motion. It carried.

Ms. Flinspach asked that Mrs. Rosenfeld be officially thanked for recording the minutes of the last meeting. Ms. Flinspach so moved and Dr. Bandler seconded the motion. It carried.

Dr. Bigham observed that in July Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial had sent a detailed report to the office on its plans for the Indiana kickoff of the bicentennial, slated for Mothers' Day weekend, May 10-11, 2008. (This site in Indiana had originally been created to honor the life of Lincoln's mother.) This event had been added to the commission's list of what we are now calling Signature Events at the June 2005 commission meeting. An event in Gettysburg in either 2008 or 2009 in conjunction with commemoration of the Gettysburg Address had also been included at that meeting. Dr. Bigham wanted to ensure that the staff had received the report and would ensure that the event in Indiana was on our master calendar. The staff will follow up on this.

Judge Turner announced that the RFP is out to sculptors to create the sculpture of a young Abraham Lincoln that will be placed on the riverfront in Louisville. Judge Turner asked the Commissioners to submit names if they knew of any sculptors.

There being no further business, Chief Justice Williams moved that we adjourn and Mrs. Cellini seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan L. Flinspach
Secretary