

Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission
Meeting # 4, June 10, 2002, 11:20 a.m.
At the Governor's Mansion,
Springfield, Illinois

Present were Dr. Jean Bandler, Dr. Darrel Bigham, Dr. Gabor Boritt, Hon. Richard Durbin, Joan Flinspach, Dr. James O. Horton, Harold Holzer, Hon. Ray LaHood, Hon. David Phelps, First Lady Lura Lynn Ryan, Hon. Tommy Turner, Hon. Frank Williams and Jackie Williams; Interim Director of the ALBC. Mrs. Kathy LaHood was a guest at the meeting. Congressional staff included Diane Liesman, and Joan Mitchell with the Hon. Ray LaHood's office; Pat Souders, Kaylee Gholson and David Field from the Hon. Richard Durbin's office. Susan Cavanaugh of Mrs. Ryan's office attended.

Harold Holzer, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:45 a.m. He was presiding for Senator Durbin, who was delayed. Mr. Holzer called for approval of the minutes from the previous meeting. Chief Justice Williams moved this, and Dr. Horton seconded his motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Holzer moved down the agenda to set the date for the fifth meeting and invited discussion. By consensus, the Commissioners agreed to meet the week of September 23rd on preferably, Monday the 23rd or Tuesday the 24th starting at 11:30 a.m. This meeting will feature the hard launch of the ALBC. Dates were also discussed for the sixth meeting. It will be held on February 10th or 11th, 2003. Ms. Flinspach reminded the Commissioners of their outstanding invitation from Judge Turner to come to Kentucky and she extended an invitation to come to Fort Wayne, Indiana in 2003 during the celebration of The Lincoln Museum's 75th birthday.

Mr. Holzer asked Ms. Williams to make her Interim Director's report. Ms. Williams noted that the report was submitted in advance in writing and asked if there were any questions. She reported on the use of funds.

Senator Durbin arrived at 11:35 a.m. Mr. Holzer turned the meeting over to him. Senator Durbin asked for a report from the Search Committee. Ms. Flinspach noted that a written report was submitted in advance and asked for questions. Chief Justice Williams noted that comments on the resumes had been received from some of the Commissioners. Ms. Flinspach summarized the comments—rankings from the Commissioners including those from the Search Committee placed Rosemary Cribben and Alvin Felzenberg in a tie for first; Martha Gutierrez Steinkamp was ranked third; and Michael Bishop fourth. Ms. Flinspach stated that she had been invited to join the Co-chairs for the interviews to be held on Friday, June 14th.

She then asked the Commissioners to determine how the final hiring decision would be made. The minutes from a past meeting state that the Commissioners wanted to have a role in making this decision.

Senator Durbin asked for input from the bylaws. Chief Justice Williams responded that he and Judge Turner were on the Bylaws Committee. He explained that because of the sunset clause, bylaws had not yet been written. Dr. Boritt stated that the candidates should be informed of the sunset clause. Senator Durbin responded that we needed to get the staff in place, get the website up and running and show some accomplishments before he would go back to Congress about the removal of the sunset clause. Congressman LaHood agreed. Dr. Bigham suggested that we look to the Sesquicentennial report and make it our guide to the next stage. Chief Justice Williams reiterated the need to discuss the sunset clause with the candidates. Mr. Holzer stated that he did not believe a report was necessary, but that we did need to hire the staff and promote ourselves through a hard launch before asking Congress to remove the sunset clause. Dr. Bandler urged the Commissioners to show some progress on the mandates of the legislation, i.e. the penny, a stamp and the Lincoln Memorial.

Senator Durbin asked Ms. Williams who was functioning as our webmaster, now that the site was up and running. Ms. Williams stated that Jasculca/Terman & Associates is keeping her informed, but that we need to hire a webmaster as soon as possible. She noted that steps could be taken to move this along prior to the hire of the Executive Director. Senator Durbin moved that this be done, and Chief Justice Williams seconded the motion. It was approved. Chief Justice Williams also asked that the Commissioners thank Ms. Williams and the Legislative Staff for all their assistance in moving us along. The Commissioners applauded.

In returning to the issue of selecting an Executive Director, Ms. Flinspach asked Dr. Bigham to present his suggestion for finalizing the hire. Dr. Bigham recommended that the co-chairs email or fax their confirmation of the recommended candidate to the co-chairs. Senator Durbin amended this recommendation to include a deadline and that the decision was final based on the majority of those meeting the deadline. The Commissioners agreed to this proposal.

Senator Durbin raised the issue of the Advisory Panel noting that invitations had been sent. He asked Ms. Williams to provide the Commissioners with a profile of the make-up of the panel. At this time Senator Durbin, Congressman LaHood and their staffs had to leave to return to Washington, D.C. Mr. Holzer resumed leadership of the meeting.

Mr. Holzer led a discussion of committees. The Commissioners reviewed the list of committees in their meeting packets. Dr. Bandler recommended the establishment of a committee to review the legislative mandates of the penny, a stamp and the Lincoln Memorial. Dr. Horton recommended having a Media Committee and volunteered for it. Mr. Holzer, Dr. Boritt, Dr. Bandler and Ms. Flinspach will also serve on this committee. Dr. Horton will mention the Commission on an interview with the History Channel on June 11, 2002. Dr. Bandler suggested that this committee come up with a motto and she quoted Lincoln, "The Unfinished Business..." Ms. Flinspach recommended that a committee duty would be to establish a media policy and guidelines for those speaking with the media.

Mr. Holzer noted that we will have formal committee reports at the September 2002 meeting. Both the Publications Committee and the International Committee should report.

Mr. Holzer brought up the Advisory Committee. He asked Ms. Williams to list the names of those who had accepted positions on the Advisory Committee. They included Wally Henderson, Governor James Edgar, Michael Maione, and Bill Bartelt. Others have accepted orally including Norm Hellmers, Superintendent of the Lincoln Home.

Ms. Flinspach noted that a Budget Committee was not among those listed in the packets. Mr. Holzer noted that after the staff is in place a Budget Committee will not be necessary.

Mr. Holzer asked about the status of state commissions. Dr. Bigham, serving on the State Liaison Committee, updated the Commissioners on the Indiana Commission. Indiana Governor Frank O'Bannon vetoed a state commission due to expense. Dr. Bigham noted that this presented the opportunity to refine the legislation. Mr. Holzer suggested that the co-chairs send a letter to Governor O'Bannon giving him a status report on the federal ALBC and include a draft of the model legislation from Illinois. Dr. Bigham and Ms. Flinspach encouraged this action.

Judge Turner distributed materials about the dedication at the National Park Service site in Kentucky on February 12, 2002. Mr. Holzer asked if there was any other business to come before the Commission, and Dr. Horton noted that all the Commissioners must be prepared to respond to Lerone Bennett's book. A brief discussion followed to agree to do this.

Mr. Holzer asked for a motion to adjourn. Dr. Bigham moved, and Judge Turner seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan L. Flinspach
Secretary

