

THE STATE COMMISSION ON THE WORLD'S FAIR

To:  
From:

MEMBER OF COMMISSION

J. A. Carson

Legislation and Proposed Amendments for 1965

January 13, 1965

On Monday, January 11, Senate Bill 57 was introduced by Senator DeLoach, along with Senators Dixon, Robinson, and Brownell, which amends our Commission's original legislation to extend its life through June 30, 1966 and provides for an appropriation in connection with the Commission's activities. The final amount of our appropriation request is \$657,000, which does not include any sum for demolishing the building as originally suggested. It was the consensus of the State Officers and others connected with financing that that extra amount of \$75,000 could not be made available and that the Commission should continue its negotiations with the Fair Corporation to obtain a waiver on the demolition ruling.

Our bill was referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee for hearing. Senator DeLoach has requested that Senator Fellers, Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, consider our request as one of the first items on the Committee's agenda. It seems improbable that our legislation will be passed through both houses by the first of February, as originally hoped. The Commission may have to contact suppliers and contractors to begin plans for rebuilding before money is actually available. After our hearing by the Appropriations Committee we will have better insight on the passage of the bill and enter into conditional contracts at that point. While we still have not met with any opposition to our request, we are concerned about timing, and any effort by the Commissioners to expedite passage of the bill will be appreciated.

We are now replying to the many applications for host and hostess positions for the 1965 season. Commissioners who know of applicants, particularly for the opening and closing six weeks, should suggest that they contact the Chicago Office for information sheets and application forms.

In our survey of all of the young people who worked for the Pavilion in 1964, we found an almost unanimous comment that our pay scale was the lowest on the Fair grounds and, in some cases, worked an undue hardship on the employees. (The information which we originally received from the World's Fair about salary was found out to be mistaken and it is true that Ford, Pepsi, New York State and other non-Fair exhibitors paid approximately \$2.00 per hour.)

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Since we do demand exceptional performances from the guides, it is only just that we take steps to bring the pay scale closer in line with comparable positions at the Fair. The proposed method of increasing the pay is in the form of a "satisfactory completion of work" bonus of \$50. This bonus, which is roughly equivalent to a week's salary, would be presented to those who have served without a breath of discipline and to the satisfaction of the Pavilion Management. By using the bonus system we avoid getting into the cost of living or travel allowance calculations and also realize an economy by leaving the base pay of \$1.50 per hour and time and a half overtime rate unchanged. It is felt that the maximum cost to the Pavilion of \$3,500 (70 employees at \$50) can be covered by our proposed budget.

Since a matter of this sort is subject to Commission approval, we ask that Commissioners inform us if the proposal does not meet with your approval. No response from Commissioners will be interpreted as an affirmative.

Please let us know if you have any questions about our hiring or salary procedures.

JAC: LWF