



WALT DISNEY PRODUCTIONS

300 SO. BUENA VISTA ST. • BURBANK, CALIFORNIA • CABLE ADDRESS: DISNEY

August 16, 1963

Mr. Ralph G. Newman, Chairman
Illinois World's Fair Committee
18 E. Chestnut Street
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mr. Newman:

Walt has asked me to get in touch with you, and as it were, establish contact. Time being of the essence in getting the Lincoln program under way, we would propose the following first step:

We will send you immediately a tape recording which will run ten or twelve minutes, and which will begin to give you the feeling of the show.

By way of explanation, and only as a tentative beginning, I am making this sample tape up out of the materials originally considered for our 30-minute Hall of Presidents show. It has the same opening and closing we plan for your show. I should like you to understand that the middle section, presenting Lincoln, is not the material we would use for your show. As you will see, this version uses excerpts from the Lincoln-Douglas debate, as well as various speeches arranged as a composite finale.

The tape will open with what we may call the Voice of the People reading the preamble of the Constitution in unison. The Narrator will then take up the thought that this great document has been the cornerstone of our American way of life, will suggest that it has known moments of crisis, and will lead up to the thought that the greatest crisis ever faced by the nation was that faced by our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln.

As the curtains part to reveal the Lincoln figure, the Narrator will supply a proper introduction, historical background, time and circumstances surrounding the speech that Lincoln will give. It seems important that the audience know that the words they are about to hear are Lincoln's own. (All of this will become the prologue, taking perhaps three minutes.)

WALT DISNEY PRODUCTIONS

Mr. Ralph G. Newman _ Page 2.

August 15, 1963

Then the main Lincoln portion of the show, which we would like your ideas on. And then, for finale, the voices of a great choir singing the Battle Hymn of the Republic.

For your part, would you and Mr. Walton like to make suggestions as to the Lincoln material you would hope to see used. (I repeat that the Lincoln quotes you will hear on this first pilot tape are only samples to let you hear a voice we think appropriate.) We would appreciate such a selection from you. I think I am familiar with the "landmark speeches" -- the Cooper Union, Second Inaugural and so on. I have the 6-volume Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln (Rutgers University) here before me. So, I think you needn't necessarily quote your selections in full, if you would prefer just to list them. The important phase of articulating our Lincoln figure will depend on an early choice of speeches.

Yours sincerely,

Jim Algar
James Algar
Associate Producer

JA:ej
cc: Walt Disney