

July 15, 1965

Gen. W. E. Potter
New York World's Fair Corporation
Flushing, New York 11380

Dear Gen. Potter:

I will take this opportunity to summarize our recent discussion in your office about our policy concerning demolition of the Illinois Pavilion.

We recall very vividly our early discussions with you in August of 1963 when we posed the three obstacles to Illinois taking part in the New York World's Fair. We listed the high cost of the Disney presentation, the various connection charges and other World's Fair utility costs, and the cost of demolition. With your assistance and with the personal cooperation of Bob Moses, we were able to obtain what has turned into a virtual subsidy for the Disney show, a ceiling on the World's Fair charges (which was never reached), and a verbal understanding with you that we could "forget" demolition.

In spite of all of our efforts to overcome the high cost of construction and maintenance at the Fair, we suffered a number of financial difficulties during the first season, which forced us to make a supplementary request of the Legislature beginning this year. In presenting our request to the Legislature and to the various state agencies who must clear deficiency appropriations, we submitted a budget (copy attached) which included \$75,000 for demolition. That item was struck from our request by our Department of Finance, the Attorney General's office, the Legislative Budgetary Commission, and finally by our own Commission members in the Legislature who knew of the terms of our original agreement waiving demolition responsibility. This brings you up to date: We have barely the funds to finish the 1965 World's Fair season with the same pattern of operation established last year, but we do not have moneys available to demolish the Pavilion.

As promised, I have had Jim Cassin take another look at our projected expenses for the rest of the year, against funds available, to determine whether we could reach the compromise of providing the World's Fair Corporation with all of the concession revenue for 1965 instead of the one-half that was originally agreed upon.

I am aware that your suggestion is a good one, since it would generate almost enough money to solve the demolition problem and be an expression of our gratitude for your help.

.. Potter

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Unfortunately, I cannot guarantee that we can turn over the full \$25 - \$30,000 expected revenue from the concession sales operation. We have set aside our \$12,500 to \$15,000 one-half share as our contingency allowance and as a means to cover expenses in dismantling and returning Historical Library properties and other displays destined for use within the state government.

I can promise this. If we do not have to use our share of the concession fees for contingencies, or for end-of-season handling and shipping expenses, we will be pleased to turn over the total, or as much as is unexpended, to the World's Fair Corporation to apply against demolition costs.

However, I must repeat that this does not constitute an acknowledgement on the part of the Illinois Commission on the New York World's Fair that we have an obligation to demolish the building, or that we are in any way countermanding the original verbal agreement made with you, that we would not be responsible for demolition.

I sincerely hope that this matter comes to a pleasant conclusion and that we are able to turn over all of the concession revenue to the World's Fair Corporation.

Sincerely yours,

Ralph G. Newman
Chairman

JAC:imr
Enc.

cc: The Hon. Otto Kerner
The Hon. James A. Ronan, Director of Finance
The Hon. William G. Clark, Attorney General
Members of the Illinois Commission - New York World's Fair

DRAFT
JACassin/imr
8/4/65

From Ralph Newman to Governor Kerner

Attached is a suggested letter to Bob Moses attempting to get you out of these details, and, at the same time, indicating that we have no intention of accommodating their convenient memories. We have already met them half way by offering the compromise of turning over our concession revenue, if not used by the end of the season. I will keep you posted, but hope this matter can be resolved without any further irritation to you.

Incidentally, the \$250,000 advance on the part of the World's Fair Corporation is very clearly defined in our tripartite agreement among the Fair, Disney, and ourselves. Our only obligation is to attempt to repay the advance by turning over 50% of our income from concession revenue. In this case the contract is air tight and we have no additional obligation. You can see that Moses, et al, were more generous before the Fair opened when they had visions of a \$50 or \$60 million surplus. Things have changed.

Best,

Ralph

SEE THROUGH
UNDERSTANDING

NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR 1964-1965 CORPORATION
INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION AT FLUSHING MEADOW PARK
WORLD'S FAIR, N. Y. 11380 • AREA CODE 212-WF 4-1965 • CABLE WORLDSFAIR

ROBERT MOSES
PRESIDENT

July 20, 1965

The Honorable Otto Kerner
Governor of Illinois
Executive Chambers
Springfield, Illinois

Dear Governor Kerner:

Your state exhibit with the magnificent animated Lincoln figure continues to be one of the greatest attractions at the Fair. As you know, we went out of our way to assure that this exhibit would be shown at the Fair. We provided \$250,000 and thus far have received only \$15,000 of it back.

However, in recent weeks my staff has had difficulties with your commission on the question of demolishing the Illinois Pavilion after the Fair is over. Like all other exhibitors, Illinois agreed to demolish its building under the terms of its contract with the Fair Corporation, and this obligation was recognized in the budget request submitted to your legislature.

As you know, the prospects of the Fair Corporation's getting even a substantial return of its investment in the Illinois Pavilion are slim. To ask us also to assume the cost of demolition of your building seems to us most unreasonable. Yet Ralph Newman has taken that position.

Our engineers previously estimated the cost of demolition of the Illinois Pavilion at \$60,000. Experience to date has shown that actual demolition bids have been considerably below the estimates, especially when the buildings are turned over to the contractor as is (including mechanical equipment, seats, etc.).

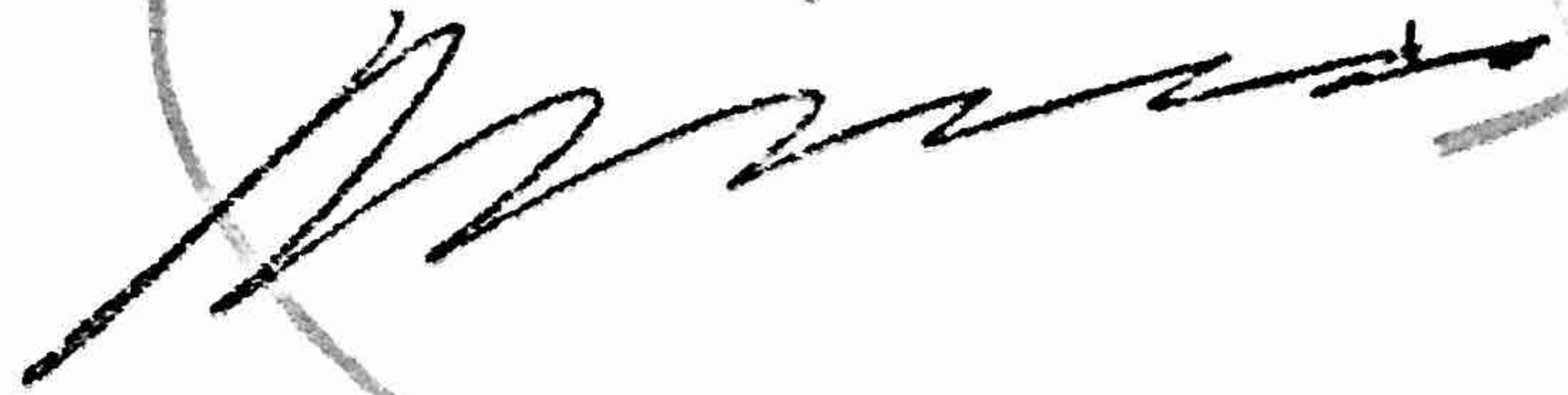
We therefore ask that you instruct your commission to solicit bids on the demolition of the Illinois Pavilion and restoration

July 20, 1935

of the site. In this way you will know exactly the amount of money involved. I am sure that you will find your state will be able to afford to fulfill this obligation.

We hope that history will show that Illinois and the World's Fair had only one objective, namely, to attract the patriotic American public to Lincoln and his Illinois.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William D. Mason", is enclosed within a hand-drawn oval.

President

Mason