

August 18, 1961

Honorable Otto Kerner, Governor  
Springfield  
Illinois

Dear Governor Kerner:

Over 70,000,000 visitors are expected at the 1964 New York World Fair. Many states are currently requesting space and starting their plans for exhibits extolling their various virtues.

I have been advised that our State of Illinois has not yet given any indication of a plan to participate. It is my understanding that it is necessary to have a request by the Governor or by resolution of the General Assembly to obtain an exhibit space. It is my feeling that the state of Illinois can and should present the finest exhibit at this fair.

If you feel this is worth-while, I will be most happy to arrange to have General Potter, Executive Director of the Fair, to come to Springfield to meet with you and discuss this in further detail.

I hereby offer my services to assist in this matter in any way you deem appropriate.

Respectfully yours,

EMH/pap

General Potter has advised that he has a man who wants to make a \$50,000 donation for an Abraham Lincoln Memorial for the State of Illinois. What he has in mind is some kind of Memorial to be used at the World's Fair, and later to be used in the State of Illinois. General Potter thought Illinois might be interested in considering an exhibit tying in the Lincoln tradition as a cultural background with the modern industrially developed state of 1964.