

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Springfield, Ill., June 25--Attendance at the Illinois Pavilion at the New York World's Fair totaled 21,375 on Tuesday, James A. Cassin, executive director of the Illinois Commission on the New York World's Fair, told Gov. Otto Kerner today.

Open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., the pavilion has a daily capacity of 25,000 persons. Feature of the pavilion is Walt Disney's production of "Great Moments With Mr. Lincoln."

Attendance has been averaging 15,000 persons a day on weekends and 10,000 during the week, Cassin said. With the exception of the New York State Pavilion, the Illinois Pavilion is the best attended exhibit at the fair, he added.

The Newark, N. J., News this week rated the Illinois Pavilion as the best state exhibit. The newspaper ranked the New Jersey exhibit as third. Comment from persons who have visited the pavilion has been extremely favorable.

Following are excerpts from letters to Gov. Kerner concerning the Illinois exhibit:

A Rego Park, N. Y., man wrote: "We shall always remember, I am sure, the inspiring moments we spent there. The animated figure of President Lincoln, the beautiful theater in which it is presented, the marvellous collection of Lincolniana provided an overwhelming experience for us."

A Haddonfield, N. J., woman wrote: "I do want to thank you for the pavilion's collection of Lincolniana. The Disney figure was magnificent. Perhaps in today's world of strife, your state's contribution may help serve as a reminder to each American of his duty to his country."

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A 10-year-old Philadelphia, Pa., girl wrote: "We chose the Illinois Building as our main point of interest. We were not disappointed. The pictures and writings were so beautifully displayed, the library so relaxing and most of all -- Lincoln -- so real that I could have gone through it 10 times and still enjoyed it. I'm so very proud to say that Illinois is my state since I was born in Chicago."

A Chicago Judge wrote: "What a magnificent achievement this is! I actually felt as if I were in the personal presence of the immortal Lincoln as he re-uttered many of his immortal declarations."

A Whitestone, N. Y., woman wrote: "It isn't easy to praise another state. However, I don't think it's being a traitor to salute Illinois for her great exhibition -- I will return many times this summer to admire it."

A Hollywood, Fla., man wrote: "As the Lincoln figure arose and talked to us, it made us, in reality, feel that we were in his presence. His talk about 'freedom' brought a great amount of respect, many tears, and a greater sense of responsibilities which we must share in carrying on our everyday lives in these times."

Special guest speakers at the pavilion, in a series sponsored by WGN, Inc., Chicago, have been, Joseph Block, chairman of the board of directors, Inland Steel Co., Chicago; James T. Farrell, author, Chicago; Cleveland Amory, columnist and Lincoln scholar, New York; Prof. John Hope Franklin, chairman of the history department at Brooklyn College, Brooklyn N. Y., and Dr. Stewart McClelland, dean of the Dale Carnegie Institute and regent of the Lincoln Heritage Association, Indianapolis, Ind.

Scheduled to speak on July 1 is Akira Matsui, Japanese ambassador to the United Nations.