

**NATIONAL COMMISSION ON LIBRARIES
AND INFORMATION SCIENCE**

AT:

**BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS**

**DATE:
August 21, 2001**

PROCEEDINGS

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: I would like to call the meeting to order. I'm delighted to see everyone here today and I would like to start by asking staff and Commissioners to please introduce themselves and then afterwards I would ask the members of the audience if they would kindly introduce themselves.

MS. DAVIS: Denise Davis, I'm Director of Statistics and Survey Staff of the Commission.

MR. MARTIN: I'm Robert Martin, Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services and ex-officio member of the Commission.

MS. HOLAHAN: I'm Paulette Holahan. I am a member of the Commission.

MR. TABB: Winston Tabb representing the Librarian of Congress, James Billington.

MS. CHALLINOR: Joan Challinor, Vice Chair.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: Martha Gould, Chair.

MR. WILLARD: Bob Willard, Executive Director.

MR. HORTON: Woody Horton, Consultant to the Commission.

MS. RUSSELL: Judy Russell, Deputy Director.

MR. ROBINSON: Don Robinson, member of the Commission.

MR. HIGHTOWER: Jack Hightower, Commissioner.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: Please introduce yourself into the mike so it can be recorded.

MR. EL-HADIDY: I'm representing the American Society of Information Science and Technology, SIG III, International Information Issues.

MS. SPACHE: Maryellen Spache (phonetic), I'm with the American Association of Home Libraries.

MS. RAY: I'm Joyce Ray with the Institute of Museum Library Services.

MS. McCONNELL: Jean McConnell with the Institute of Museum Library Services.

MS. BINGHAM: Beth Bingham, I'm a Consultant with the Commission.

MS. JONES: Lorna Jones, with Milan Information Services.

MR. SYSLER: My name is Steve Sysler (phonetic), Consultant from San Jose, California.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: Thank you and welcome. First item of business, we have some administrative matters to address. We have the draft minutes of previous meetings.

MR. ROBINSON: I move they be accepted as printed.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: Thank you. It has been moved that they be accepted. Is there a second?

MS. CHALLINOR: I second it.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: Are there any objections?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: Without objections, the minutes are approved.

Now we come to Committee Chairs and Assignments. They are all under Tab 2. Judy?

MS. RUSSELL: They are in the annual report. We could look at the list in there but...

MS. CHALLINOR: What are we on now?

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: On the Committee Chairs and Assignments.

MS. RUSSELL: Do you want to skip on that and come back?

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: I think so, for the time being.

Bob, do you want to address the appropriations?

MR. WILLARD: Yes. As everyone is familiar, the White House budget proposal suggested that the Commission be zeroed out because if work could be done by other agencies there was no indication in the budget of what those other agencies were or how they would be funded to do the work that we're being funded to do. I remain convinced that that was just a mistake, that the White House was under pressure of getting a budget done quickly after a very abbreviated transition period. They didn't have the opportunity to spend time with us to understand the unique characteristics of the Commission but what we do is different from what other agencies do.

Subsequent to that budget being submitted to the Congress we've had occasion to talk with members of the Congress, specifically members of the Appropriations Committee. As you all know, we are in the most, one of the most contentious appropriations bills, the

Labor/HHS and Education appropriations bill and it's usually the last one to go through the appropriations cycle. That is likely to happen again this year. So far I think about six appropriation bills have been handled by one House or the other but not the Labor/H bill.

Our latest contact with the staff indicates that they anticipate a draft bill ready to be submitted to the Committee by the second week in September. Until that occurs we will not see the words National Commission on Libraries and Information Science followed by a number. I just -- they are not written on paper anywhere except for internal documents that the staff, the appropriation staff has. But once that mark-up document becomes available that will be the first indication we have that our message has been heard.

So needless to say, we're on pins and needles somewhat, although I have to say there's a high degree of confidence because of the Congress members and Senators we're dealing with we feel pretty comfortable that there will be a number in there. There is no indication yet on what that number will be. Will it be level funding where we are now? Will it be the amount of money we asked for based on the resolution that was passed at our meeting in Cincinnati in April? We don't know yet. So that's the current status.

There's one other aspect of this that we are pursuing, matters while we have the attention of the legislators we want to alert them to the fact that there are a couple of issues that need to be taken care of in an administrative vein that will allow the Commission to pursue its work in a more effective way.

Key among those requests was, administrative amendments, is the continuation of members of the Commission in office until their replacement has been named. We are in a situation right now where there are actually five vacancies on the Commission. Because of the budgetary situation White House personnel is reluctant to move forward nominations even though there is a wonderful selection of people who have made their interest known to the White House and have gotten, are recipients of strong political support.

So we want to have an amendment that is similar to the amendments, to provisions that other commissions have and that is rather than a fixed term for our members there would be a fixed term but it would, the member would continue in that office until the replacement had been qualified and appointed by the President.

MS. CHALLINOR: I think we should say, Bob, that this is not the fault of the present administration but the past administrations to whom we did not get those, I mean, I'm always one who likes to say something that, you know, blame somebody, but I do think that it's only fair to say that it was with the last administration that we had trouble also getting names through.

MR. WILLARD: One of the other things that we want to have the Congress consider and we have received positive feedback on this is the recognition of the role of the Commission as an independent provider of advice to not just the Executive Branch but

also to the Legislative Branch, that our budgetary process ought to be equivalent to some other entities, notably the Legislature, notably the International Trade Commission. There are two or three other agencies, a number of government corporations that simply submit their budget to OMB for inclusion in the recommendations that go forward but there's no modification of that submission until the Congress itself deals with it.

This would be an important step forward for the Commission because as small as we are the action that has occurred this year with the President, for whatever reasons, removing money from, off the recommendation we sent to the Hill, all of a sudden withdraws a lot of energy of the Commission that should be focused on programs of the Commission and instead focuses energy on fixing our budgetary problem. So we're hopeful that the Congress will recognize that, will recognize that we are an independent entity that is supposed to provide them advice and that they will be the first entity that says how much money the Commission will have and then the President will get involved by either accepting or vetoing the appropriation for which we carry.

We anticipate that these legislative changes, if they are to be accomplished, will be accomplished in the appropriations bill. We are dealing with the authorizing committees on both sides because they, after all, are the people that passed the causative law that creates the Commission or uncreates it. But the vehicle by which we hope the legislation will go through will be the appropriations bill.

Are there any questions?

(No response.)

MR. WILLARD: I think there's one other thing that, just tangentially, that, as you all know, the focus of this meeting almost exclusively, because it's taking place in the context of IFLA, is on the Commission's international activities and therefore, an Executive Director's report was not included in today's agenda. But I would like to report on one thing affecting personnel.

We have had -- and it is partly related to the budget and we made it known to the Congress that it's related to the budget, we have had two of our eight staff people announce they were leaving. One definitely is leaving because of the uncertainty of the budget situation and the other is very much influenced by that. One is Suzanne Randazzo who is our Administrative Officer, and the other is La Keshia Murray who is our receptionist. I am happy to report that we have interviewed and made an offer and it has already been accepted to replace Suzanne Randazzo. In fact, it is someone who comes back to the Commission, someone with eight years of experience on the staff of the Commission, a woman by the name of Jane McDuffy who has worked for the Commission from 1982 to 1990 and she will begin the day after Labor Day. She will be the Administrative Officer, but she also brings to us a portfolio of additional skills that we think will be useful to the Commission.

We do not have a replacement yet for our receptionist but we do have a temporary who is working for us and who seems to be very competent. So we are still at full strength.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: Thank you. I also would like to note that Commissioner Mason is now with us.

MS. MASON: I'm very sorry. I have a little crisis.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: We understand.

And also I was remiss -- before we go on -- I would like to welcome Robert Martin, the new confirmed Director for the Institute.

(applause)

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: I sometimes get sidetracked getting started. We are delighted to have you with us and look forward to four years of very positive cooperation and collaboration.

MR. MARTIN: Thank you. Likewise.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: We are going to have fun.

Are there any questions to Mr. Willard concerning the appropriations process?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: If not, then we will go on to the next item which is the Meeting Calendar for the remainder of this fiscal year of 2001, and it's got a little blue at the end of Tab 2. As you know, we have a meeting coming up in September and getting from Point A to Point B is, I think, as usual, somewhat of a logistical nightmare.

Bob, do you have any comments or questions you want to make?

MR. WILLARD: The calendar that is in your book was printed on July 31st. There's been a slight change and you have been all, the recipients of E-mail, describing it, but let me review it.

We will be arriving on Wednesday in Boston; Sturbridge happens to be midpoint between Boston and Hartford airport so Boston seemed to have the better flight options for us. So we'll be flying into Boston and through major logistical coordination we will have a bus bring all of the Commissioners who arrive on the morning of Wednesday the 12th or because of the necessity of travel have to come in the night before. The bus will be leaving from Boston International Airport at about 12:30 on Wednesday the 12th so that we can have a Commission-only meeting on the afternoon of the 12th.

The following day the meeting is the joint meeting of the Museum Services Board and the Commission. That, of course, is under the logistical control of IMLS. They have set it up so that we will have a tour of the Olde Sturbridge Village, which is managed -- the President of that organization is a member of the Museum Services Board.

The dinner of the joint members will be that evening. Then the following morning most of the Commissioners will be departing to head back home. Those Commissioners who want to sit in at the meeting of the Museum Services Board are welcome to attend that, obviously, it's a public meeting. That will take place on Friday morning. Most Commissioners, I would say, will be on the bus headed back to the airport so that we can get home on Friday from Boston. That's the general lay of the land.

Bob, do you have anything you want to add to it?

MR. MARTIN: No. It will be my first joint board meeting and my first meeting with the Museum Services Board so I'm not really equipped to add anything more to the substance or the logistics. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: If you have any questions or concerns, work with Judy and Bob in terms of plane reservations, et cetera.

MR. WILLARD: I would caution you to read your E-mail very closely. There are some additional fill-ups to this additional planning that we have to do and that will be in our E-mail the days following this meeting.

MS. CHALLINOR: So you check your E-mail before we print out the E-mail in order to check it. I won't get it if it's only on E-mail. Either I bag out or I get it by fax, one of the two.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: If there are no other questions in terms of the meeting for the rest of this fiscal year then we will go on to the resolutions for Abe, Walter Anderson, and Le Var Burton, and again, you will also find them under Tab 2. As you know, they have completed their follow-through year and are now no longer members of the Commission but we do need to recognize the work that they have done and I would entertain a move to approve all three.

MR. ROBINSON: I move that we accept the resolutions for both Abe, Walter, and Le Var.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: Do I have a second?

MS. CHALLINOR: I'll second it.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: It has been moved by Commissioner Robinson and seconded by Joan Challinor. Are there any objections?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: Then it is approved by unanimous consent.

Thank you very much. We will now go on to the financial report.

MS. RUSSELL: You should have that on the table in front of you. It's a bright green sheet. We won't spend a lot of time on it, although as always I'm happy to answer your questions. We're coming down to the end of the year. This is always a tricky time when we're trying to resolve everything and be sure that everything is on target.

One thing you will notice is that our rent is less than estimated, although we moved into the new space. Because GSA has not completed the construction, in fact, they're supposed to be doing the final work on the conference room air-conditioning this week while we are here, they have not yet assessed us the new rent and we had a little conversation about whether they were going to assess it retroactively or not and I have encouraged them to think that since it's so late in the fiscal year they might wish to assess it starting in October rather than surprise us just a few days before the end of the fiscal year. But at this point we're expecting actually that the money that you're seeing there as a surplus in rent will go and be used for travel and consulting services and then our new higher rent for the larger suite will not come into play until the next fiscal year.

If you look toward the, just below the midpoint of the page you'll see the other sources of funding besides our appropriation. The gift account this year, both in terms of carryover and new money has been at about \$11,000. We've used just under \$5,000 of that. We have received \$325,000 from the NCES for the Library Statistics Program. At this point there is still a part of that money which has not yet been expended but it is planned for; it's just a matter of implementing it.

And the funds from the State Department have been received at last and most of them have been expended. There is a small amount there that has not yet been obligated because it will be resolved once we know what the final travel costs are for some of the meetings and things and the balance of it can be obligated to another thing but we can't do that until this meeting is over and all the bills come due.

I think other than that it's fairly clear we still have to re-balance now our salaries category because with the changes in staff we'll probably see a little bit come out of salaries but it will be used up in temporary services. So I think we are going to end the year close but right where we need to be which is right on the money with our appropriation without leaving a lot in the bank and without going over and calling into play the Anti-Deficiency Act which is always to be avoided.

MS. CHALLINOR: Judy, I have one question. What does it mean when it says the NCLIS gift account is a request. We can't request for the gift account.

MS. RUSSELL: We don't.

MS. CHALLINOR: It has to be something else.

MS. RUSSELL: We put in a piece of paper to OMB --

MS. CHALLINOR: Oh, we do.

MS. RUSSELL: -- that is a request for us to be able to receive a certain amount of money. If we get more money than that we have to go back to them and request permission to accept it. So there is not an open-ended authority that we could take thousands and millions of dollars without actually processing it through OMB. So --

MS. CHALLINOR: When it says here "allocated," does that mean the money that we actually had?

MS. RUSSELL: Yes.

MS. CHALLINOR: That's the real figure then.

MS. RUSSELL: That's the real number.

MS. CHALLINOR: Thank you.

MS. RUSSELL: The FY 2000 represents either our appropriation request or in the case of the gift account and the Library Statistics and the State Department, the money that we estimated we would be getting for those things, then we allocate it as what actually came in and the budget we've been working against for the balance of the year.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: Are there any other questions concerning the budget?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: Great. And we are running a few minutes ahead of time.

At this point we will discuss the current NCLIS International Project and have an update and at this point I'll turn it over to, we'll start with Mr. Horton and if you'd like to talk about our visitor from the National Library Board, Singapore.

MR. HORTON: We have in our midst here today Julie Sabaratnam from the National Library Board of Singapore whom I've had the pleasure of knowing for perhaps 20 years and whom another NCLIS consultant Beth Bingham met recently in connection with the IFLA meeting in Bangkok and we were both impressed by the extent to which in Singapore libraries are involved very early in community, local community development processes and have a very important role there.

So we had proposed to the Commission that we invite Julie over here for a period of three weeks for the purpose of sharing with us the approach, we call it the Singapore Library and Information Services Model that she has used in Singapore and to that end we have set up two meetings next week, the first on Tuesday of next week which involves a variety of government agencies, public interest groups, and some associations but primarily U.S. Government agencies that have some kind of local community development program so that they can listen to Julie and hear how she does things, how they do things in Singapore. And who knows, perhaps the U.S. can learn something from Julie. I think Julie will be interested in knowing the approaches that we use in the United States.

Under your Tab 4 there are documents related to her visit and handed out to you loose is a bio, a resume for your information. I think, I hope most of you or many of you have met Julie by now; if not, she's sitting here. If you'll raise your hand, Julie. Try to meet her before this meeting ends. I hope at least some of our Commissioners, I know Jose-Marie Griffiths is going to attend our meeting next Tuesday, but if anybody else, any of the other Commissioners in the room were not aware of that meeting and would like to attend, you'd be more than welcome. We will probably get between thirty and forty people on Tuesday at the NCLIS conference room. Then on Wednesday we've invited the D.C. Library Association membership to a meeting so that Julie can share with them her approach.

MS. CHALLINOR: Woody, I think it's important to say how wrong I can be. I said nobody will come the week before Labor Day and now we have a problem about chairs, we don't have enough chairs, we don't have enough room, we don't have anything, and I think it's important --

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: We have enough chairs and we have enough room.

MS. CHALLINOR: At the time that the thing happened. But I said, The week before Labor Day? Nobody will come.

MR. HORTON: I wouldn't dare say you're wrong, Joan --

MS. CHALLINOR: Oh, go ahead.

MR. ROBINSON: But you're wrong.

MS. CHALLINOR: Yes, of course I'm wrong.

MS. RUSSELL: Robbie can say that.

MR. HORTON: Anyway, welcome, Julie, we much appreciate you making the long journey and we are also happy to have Christopher Chia here from the National Library Board and so many others from your country.

MS. SABARATNAM: We are looking forward to the program.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: Would you like to go on to talk about our Government Information Studies?

MR. HORTON: Yes. Frankly, not too much is happening at the moment with the National Government Information Study for a variety of reasons. My conclusion has been that on the Senate side the Senate committee with Senator Lieberman now in charge, whom as you know requested our study, he's one of the two Senators, has been very pre-occupied with other legislation and other priorities and has had very little time, if any, to focus on our recommendations.

I'm sure many of you in this room are aware of the E-Government Bill as Senate S.803 and now we have a similar bill on the House side which is taking up E-Government. And while our findings and recommendations are somewhat related to the E-Government area clearly that is a sexier topic that is getting more attention and I'm afraid the facts of life are until that moves further along they're not gonna pay too much attention to bills such as ours.

I might mention, since this is an international focus, we didn't intend to get deeply into a report on that Government Information Study. The reason for putting it on here at all is that it has received a great deal of interest from our friends overseas. UNESCO, for example, who have representatives here at the IFLA conference, were very enthusiastic about the conclusions and recommendations contained within the report as have been members of the European Union with whom we have also met. And I must have a dozen messages from other countries, including Peru, Malaysia, and I could go around the world where they have received a copy or seen it on the web and are very interested in pursuing some of the recommendations contained in the report.

So I think the bottom line is that that report has struck a sympathetic chord among many nations and they may well be moving in front of us, which won't be the first time that's happened, to do something about the recommendations. The first one, the one dealing with the idea that disclosable government information should be treated as a strategic national resource in particular has gained a great deal of interest around the world.

I'm not sure, Martha, what else I need to say about the government report. We will take it up again when things calm down a little more, probably in October.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: I would think so. Thank you, Woody.

The next item is the transfer to the School of Information Science at the University of Pittsburgh, the NCLIS Survey of U.S. Participation in International Organizations and Activities. You have before you a handout from the Dean --

MS. CHALLINOR: Toni Carbo.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: Toni Carbo. At this point --

MR. HORTON: In 1997 the Commission approved the notion of creating a database of U.S. participation in international forums dealing with library and information science matters. The Commission then authorized the staff to proceed with constructing a survey instrument and sending that out and as a matter of fact the University of Pittsburgh and Toni Carbo personally served as a sort of guinea pig and filled out that form and helped us design it. As the months and then months turned into years wore on we did get a dribble, a drab and a dribble of response to that. But frankly not very much and it was disappointing. And my conclusion was it is the kind of -- creating such a database which would be U.S. institutional participation in international NGO activities, not governmental organizations, is something that is going to take a great deal of detailed follow-up and attention that we simply do not have the staff to undertake.

Toni Carbo had this idea to do this same project many years ago when she was Executive Director of NCLIS. So she's been more, has more than just a passing interest in trying to make a success of the endeavor. And to that end she has sent us this letter which you now have which indicates that her university would like to consider performing that work, creating the database, maintaining it, but, of course, she is looking for some financial support to do that. Unfortunately, Toni could not be with us. She arrives at this meeting, I think, tomorrow, but she couldn't be here today or else she could talk to us firsthand. But she will be in tomorrow and I hope she does have a chance to chat with some of you personally. But we now have the letter and the Commission needs to respond to her at some point.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: Comments from the Commissioners?

MR. ROBINSON: Do we need to have some kind of a resolution to make, you know, to do this?

MS. CHALLINOR: I don't think so.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: It's an administrative -- I think what we need is the indication that this is a direction in which to go in but we don't have to take formal action, it's just administrative, and I don't know if there's much we really can do until after we know the status of our budget.

Marilyn, you indicated --

MS. MASON: I just had a question about how much it would cost.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: We don't know yet. That's part of what the discussion -- I personally would like us to go forth and discuss this with Toni, I think it's a very good idea and I would like to see us be able to do it. So if there's -- yes, Paulette?

MS. HOLAHAN: Can we have some sort of a resolution or at least statement that we are -- just to the effect of what you're saying, that we're very interested in doing what we can if we can.

MR. ROBINSON: The sense of the Commission.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: The sense of the Commission is that we will continue discussing this with Toni and once we know the status of our budget and where we're going, at that point I think we can come back and formalize something.

MS. HOLAHAN: And we will respond to her.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: Yes, we will respond to her.

MS. MASON: Yeah, I think that I -- I have trouble knowing whether I think we should go forward with it without knowing how much we think it's going to cost because I think there is a priority issue.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: Yes.

MS. MASON: But I certainly think it's appropriate for you to discuss and get that information.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: Bob, do you have a feel of what the cost may possibly be?

MR. MARTIN: It certainly is going to be more than \$5,000 but much less than \$50,000, so somewhere in that order --

MS. CHALLINOR: Give yourself a wide berth.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: Don't pin yourself down.

MR. MARTIN: I'm using a lot of reference here.

MS. CHALLINOR: Winston wants to say something.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: Yes, Winston?

MR. TABB: I would agree. I think we need to know definitely how much it costs. We also need to think about how long an agreement would be for and then really think about this in the context of other things that the Commission might be doing. I think that the utility of this may not be what it was thought to be at the very beginning because now there's so many easier, easy ways of finding out who is doing what by using the Internet. This may or may not be worth pursuing but we need to find out more about what it would be, I think, to make a decision.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: I think the sense of the Commission is, the direction leads me here to Bob that he will continue to discuss this with Toni and what, you know, her status for our budget, go back and look at our priority list. We can come back to the Commission with the final recommendation, yea, nay, or maybe or whatever. Any other comments?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: Okay.

Sister libraries. Would you like to carry on with any --

MS. CHALLINOR: Well, I think everybody here was at the meeting downstairs where we discussed working with UNESCO and especially the U.N. Libraries which accord you now and to see if there is a fit between our Sister Libraries Program, which has been carried to a great success by Beth Bingham and that we would like to work with them and have them take it over in the future and make it part of their UNAL. They have a lot of libraries and we just had a meeting downstairs and I think that I'd like to have a sense of the Commission that we should go forward with discussing this with UNESCO, nothing more than discussing it.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: I think in the meeting that preceded this meeting the feeling was that they wanted to wait for our formal session.

MS. CHALLINOR: Right.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: And I really would like to know the status of our interaction with OMB to get permission.

MS. DAVIS: Judy is coordinating that.

MS. CHALLINOR: What?

MS. DAVIS: Judy is coordinating.

MS. RUSSELL: I will coordinate it when Rosalie and Beth have it prepared and hand it to me so we should within the next two weeks be submitting it to OMB.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: Okay.

MS. RUSSELL: Woody, I don't recall how long it took for you to get the OMB clearance when you did your international survey, it was several months.

MR. HORTON: It took several months, it is probably closer to three months. But there is supposed to be a fast track, I'm not sure if it's working but --

MS. CHALLINOR: But there's no question about it, we are talking with them about it right now.

MS. RUSSELL: They are aware that it's coming and we've expressed to them, you know, what our desire is on the timing. Beth and Rosalie have some work to do now that the feedback has come from the people who were testing it to make some final changes in it. Then it will go forward to OMB with the paperwork that's necessary to request it.

In the meantime we are going ahead and gathering copies of reports and stories and photographs and other kinds of things that would be the narrative part of this report surrounding it but obviously, particularly in this day and age with performance measures, there's a concern or a desire to have this type of factual data to go along with the anecdotal data and our expectation is that the project itself formally ends with the end of this calendar year which is the end of the two-year millennium celebration period. And that in the first quarter of Calendar Year 2002 we would help to publish the report but all that obviously is subject to the data collection.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: Are there any other questions concerning the assessment process?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: As you know, for those of you who were at the meeting preceding this there is an indication of interest from UNESCO but they are waiting also for the report.

Okay. Let's just go on then to --

MR. WILLARD: Just to put it on the record, the idea of the Sister Libraries Project is quite inconsistent with what the Commission as a policy- developing body does. Normally we wouldn't run operational programming but a millennium only comes every 999 years and the administration very much wanted every agency to be involved one way or another on it. So it was clearly an outstanding project for the Commission to get involved in, wonderful benefits inured from it, visibility for the Commission came along but it isn't what we should continue with but it's not -- an operational project is not what the Commission is about. So it's appropriate to turn it over and Woody and I together visited with both the representatives from UNESCO that are attending here both Baleet Dayo (phonetic) and Abdelazis Abid. But we also met with Joie Springer who runs the UNESCO network of associated libraries and I think that very much would be an appropriate one, but once we have our assessment report ready to go and they can see both the benefits and also understandably the burden of administrative programs like this I think they will be willing recipients of it.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: Thank you. Our relationship now with other international organizations, IFLA and FID --

MS. CHALLINOR: Woody.

MR. HORTON: There was a meeting on Sunday that was hosted by IFLA and chaired by Kirsten Engelstad of Norway for the purpose of exploring what could be done for FID members who, because of an FID council decision to disband that organization made late last year at their last council meeting in Portugal what IFLA might do to respond more effectively to former FID members who now do not have an association home. I think it was a very good meeting. There were approximately thirty people there, two FID council members were there. Shawky Salem from Egypt who is on the council was there as was Irene Wormell from Sweden and they are now drafting a letter as a result of that meeting to IFLA indicating that they were going to approach one of the FID vice presidents, Augusta Pacci from Italy for the purpose of making specific recommendations to IFLA on what changes could be suggested to make IFLA in their eyes more responsive to their professional and career needs. I don't know who else was there. Winston, were you at that meeting?

MR. TABB: Not at that meeting, no.

MR. HORTON: Coopman was there, Ross started it off. But I think it was a very positive meeting, under rather difficult circumstances because as I said, FID has now agreed to disband itself and yet there are several hundred members who aren't necessarily members of IFLA but could be. And the question is what changes might FID make. There had been talk of a merger at one point in time but it's very difficult under these circumstances where one has a very strong partner, such as IFLA, even considering the idea of a merger with another organization that is virtually already defunct. And that kind of has caused some misunderstanding but I believe IFLA's heart is in the right place and I think they will rise above that kind of unfortunate situation and respond to a letter from FID on what changes might be considered.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: What is NCLIS' role in this? How does this affect --

MR. HORTON: NCLIS simply acted, helped as an honest broker to bring those parties together so that there could be a constructive dialogue.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: Do you have any questions on this issue?

(No response.)

MR. HORTON: With respect to the International Council of Archives I did attend one meeting here that was a program meeting, not directly connected with ICA relations with NCLIS or with IFLA. But ICA has indicated -- by ICA, the acronym is the International Council of Archives. And SAA is the Society for American Archives. They have also indicated that they would like to strengthen their relationships with NCLIS. And we agreed in October that we would meet in Washington with an ICA person who will be visiting to explore how the ties can be strengthened.

Annually NCLIS has channeled a certain limited amount of money to traditionally to IFLA to FID and to ICA and continues to do so with IFLA and ICA but now no longer gives funds to FID.

With respect to the last bullet some six weeks ago or so NCLIS sponsored a meeting with two senior visiting officials from the European Union who were in the United States, they are responsible for developing a new web site for European Union member countries called the Public Sector Information Network, PSINet, no connection to the American PSI Net. And I believe it was a very successful meeting.

The European meeting, again NCLIS's role was as a broker because they had approached us and said we are coming to the United States and would like an opportunity to talk to the major U.S. public information web site, public or private, so that we can listen to how you've been doing things in the States and perhaps you, in turn, might like to know what we're doing in the European Union.

There is in your package I think under number 9 there is a short resume of what happened and who the people were who attended that meeting. If I may personally say I think these kinds of meetings with NCLIS performing a broker role with major international partners is a very effective way because in effect we're just getting things started and bringing people together and not making any long-term operational commitments to remain involved.

MS. CHALLINOR: I'd also like to say that I think that some opinions were changed at that meeting with the Union, with the European Union. They came in with one idea and I think that because of the discussion of all the people that they went out with quite a different idea.

MR. HORTON: And we now have a letter back from them, by the way, indicating that they are now seeking partners to begin the specific pieces of the work they need to do, both public and private sectors. I don't know whether that letter is here or not but if it is available and I suppose NCLIS needs to respond to that letter, NCLIS as an institution, but you may want to make recommendations. I haven't talked with Judy, Martha or Joan about that yet but the letter is before us.

MS. RUSSELL: But that meeting was actually in part an outgrowth that would be the next comprehensive assessment of public information dissemination so it ties back really to that earlier topic that because of seeing our assessment and seeing the way that we were addressing public information that raised the visibility and their interest in talking about it, those issues and how they might take some of the recommendations and model to it and see them implemented in their own country. And I think that's the kind of issue that we're interested in looking at is how when we do a study like the comprehensive assessment can you see it have an impact, not just at the Federal level but State and local levels of our country and internationally in terms of benefiting from the policies development that's going on, the analysis of the situation and problems and opportunities that's going on.

So that's a good example of one of the outcomes of the comprehensive assessment was that cross-fertilization between the two organizations.

MS. CHALLINOR: I'd like to say that we couldn't do it unless we had Woody Horton as a consultant. Woody Horton is the center of all this international activity. And he spends a lot of time explaining things to me.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: And if you remember, one of the things that we do and I think we do it very well is to act as a facilitator. And I'm really very pleased that this meeting was held and I think some very positive things will come out of it.

Yes, Bob.

MR. MARTIN: I don't think we should lose sight of the fact that, of one other fact, and that is the value of real estate of by the modernization we've done on the expansion in our office we now have a very well- functioning conference facility so we can invite a group of ten or twenty or thirty people in and facilitate a very good exchanging of views.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: Are there any other comments or questions from the Commissioners?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: Then we will go down to the next bullet which is LibEcon 2000 and statistical activities. Denise?

MS. DAVIS: By way of updates in prior discussions, if you go to Tab 10 there is a brief overview of key items. What I'd like to do is work backwards. So if you'll flip the first sheet immediately to the LibEcon project I'd like to give you an update.

About two years ago I was approached by some people, Phil Gransale (phonetic) and some others, who are with the Institute of Public Finance in the United Kingdom and what they had taken on was the coordination of an effort that has been called LibEcon 2000. And this is an effort to bring to the web library statistics from around the world. They have through a variety of efforts brought together representatives from each country who are, on behalf of their countries, submitting data about a number of libraries across library type which they are calling sectors. In January of this year I was approached by Philip Gransale to be the individual from the United States who aggregated that data and reported it to the European Union Project, LibEcon. And I had some discussions with Bobby briefly to write certain things the Commission was doing and my role was helping coordinate the Library Statistics Program with the National Center of Education statistics, I was really the best person to do this.

So about two months ago or less a huge package arrived in the mail for me, simultaneous to an E-mail message that had about thirty attachments and those attachments were the

surveys that needed to be completed. So I did, in fact, do that and what I put in your binders is some background information about the project so you can understand what it is.

The European Union is growing slowly and the funding for this particular project is administered on a three-year basis at this point and it is through a benefactor in the European Union that they are funded actually to maintain this web site. So it's through the volunteerism around the world that this actually has been done. The United States has reported for the first time this year and we've reported for years 1996 to the year 2000 where possible. We have submitted data about academic, public, and State library agencies. And later this year I'll be reporting with the school media centers because that report hasn't been completed yet, and also I'll be working with representatives from the National Library from the United States to identify that data which can be reported on this account. And we will be having a meeting with individuals from the National Library in the fall to identify representatives from each of those agencies to submit the data to NCLIS so we can pick it up. So that's where we are on that effort.

I did last week for International Conference on Performance Inequities and Assessment which was actually held in Pittsburgh at the time to the disappointment of many people who were in Pittsburgh. I did have an opportunity, actually, to meet a number of the people who were actually doing the reporting including David Hooagy (phonetic) who is the person who is actually administering this program for the Institute of Public Finance. And we had very good discussions about why -- where the gaps were, what the U.S. would ever be to report and why that was. It went extremely well. So as long as they have funding and as long as we have funding the Commission will continue to send information about the U.S. libraries to them even though we are not a member of the European Union but we felt very strongly about that to serve in that role.

Now, what I'd like to do is to, if you flip the first sheet back, okay, there will be a very brief overview of where we are on four projects that the Commission will be actively, that's me, I will be actively involved in over the next several years.

The first is the National Information Standards Organization which is the U.S. counterpart to the Information Standards Organization which is a national organization. This year's library statistics standards have come up for the five-year review and I will be chairman of the committee that will be doing that review.

We are, however, isolating the electronic measures including performance measures from the base standard and description of that will actually occur in the form of a data dictionary. And that project will be managed by Florida State University's Library Institute on Public Policy and Chuck McClure and John Bertot will be doing the data dictionary. So I will be working actively with them. All roads lead to Tallahassee.

MS. MASON: I knew that.

MS. DAVIS: But I will be working closely with them as we work through the review of the library statistics standard, those measures that come up that need to be included in the data dictionary will be handed out.

The goal is to, the charge, actually, after I leave this meeting I'm meeting with Pat Harris who is the Executive Directory of NISO and Pat Stevens who is on the NISO Board and will be the liaison for NISO to the steering committee for the -- we will be meeting to confirm the charges of the committee and to start inviting people who will participate in the committee. The first meeting that will occur is November of 2001. We're hoping to have a final draft by the end of 2002 and we'll put it out for draft standard for voting. So we're moving this very rapidly toward the process.

And that's largely because we have isolated, we're going to be isolating the electronic measures from the base standard. Eventually we see this all coming together, again, on the back end but right now only the two separate projects.

The third project that's associated with that is the NISO performance measurement agenda and that is actually an activity that we'll be looking at, service measures, they've been labeled things like good quality, zero quality kinds of measures as well as network performance measures in the tangible sense. NISO has made the decision to manage that as a discussion group initially with representatives from the organizations and associations that have been actively involved in that. So the Association of Research Libraries and groups like that would be actively participating in that. The end result is actually to develop guidelines in the practices, rather than the standards. So that's a separate activity that will be going on and the Commission will be involved in that to the extent appropriate read into that. How much time do I really have?

And the last is, the Commission has been invited to participate in a project -- the Commission has been involved in some focus group discussions with U.S. publishers and content aggregators to develop some measurement that libraries can use and that publishers can report consistently to their customers.

A similar project is occurring in the United Kingdom internationally and that's occurring through the joint information systems committee of the publishers association working group which is actually chaired by Richard Getty who is with Oxford University Press. There was a meeting in the spring that brought the publishers together through June. The outcome is yes, they need working groups, they need to move forward, and I've been identified to serve on one of those committees. But I'll be talking with Richard Getty next week to find out exactly what he's assigned me to do because I don't know what that is yet. So as that evolves we'll be carrying our efforts across the pond, as it were, to continue really pushing our measures there so that we can insure that our library customers here who were buying contents from around the world can be insured that the measures will be consistent from all publishers and aggregators.

So that's the last of the international commissioners -- office that the Commission is involved in. Are there any questions?

MS. CHALLINOR: I'd like to thank our statistics person for the breadth of her activities and the efficiency with which she carries them out which is reflected in that everybody wants you to be doing something for them.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: Also because statistical information is so vitally important in showing what it is we do and why we do it and how we do it, I really would like to commend Denise for the work that she has done. John built a foundation and now Denise is building the castle.

Any other comments?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: We are moving quite rapidly.

MS. CHALLINOR: The kind of thing one expects from the Commission.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: We are now -- well, we are five minutes ahead of time.

Proposed planned international activities. Woody, International Leadership Conference on Information Literacy, which is something --

MS. CHALLINOR: Patricia Breivik.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: I know. But Woody's going to talk about it.

MS. CHALLINOR: Oh, yeah.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: Which is very dear and near to my heart.

MR. HORTON: Some of the Commissioners may recall, those who were there a year ago in Los Angeles at the Commission meeting Patricia Breivik, being Director of Libraries at the time -- broached with us the idea about what she then called the First International Leadership Conference on Information Literacy. And she asked that she would like to explore that information with her National Forum on Information Literacy and possibly with the international organization. We said we would and we have. We began an E-mail dialogue earlier in the year with UNESCO again on this idea and then when Bob and I went to Paris in May we discussed the concept in greater detail with certain officials of UNESCO, two of which are here at this meeting, Philippe Pito (phonetic) and Abdelaziz Abid, not only they but their respective bosses Sir John Daniel who is the Assistant Director General of UNESCO for the education sector and Abdul Khan in India who is the new Assistant Director General for the communications information sector, very enthusiastically supported the idea of collaborating with the National Forum on Literacy for the purpose of sponsoring and organizing the First International Leadership Conference on Information Services.

We had hoped to have, we then sent a letter following our Paris meeting which was informal. We then sent a formal letter to Mr. Matsuura, the Director General of UNESCO, formally proposing such a conference. This is at the suggestion of the two assistant director generals. We had hoped by the time of this meeting to have in our hot little hands the formal reply from UNESCO. Philippe has told us, however, that it will and is a positive and constructive guess we want to pursue with you and organize such a conference. When he left Paris a few days ago the draft response letter he told me was on the desk of Sir John Daniel for signature for Mr. Matsuura. So tomorrow morning from 9 to 11 Patricia Breizik is here from San Jose, and we have a meeting set up with the UNESCO officials, especially Philippe who actually drafted the reply, to discuss the next steps.

What is being talked about essentially so far is a two-stage meeting with the traditional UNESCO format for international conference. One would be an advance meeting of experts, that's what they like to call them, that would be charged with planning the larger meeting which would then follow, nine, ten, eleven, twelve onset obviously. Sir John Daniel told Bob and I in Paris that he hoped that that expert meeting could take place very soon after the first of the year because the argument started. So again, I don't know which of the Commissioners may be interested in attending that. It will be tomorrow downstairs. What room is it? Room 4 from 9 to 11, and Patricia has also invited some national Commissioners --

I hope there will be some influence from ALA and some IMLS people in attendance because clearly that is a subject which is important to all the associations and institutions.

I can't help but notice that Glasgow University in Scotland just begun a little bit on this. I've already held the first international conference on information literacy in Scotland but that happens sometimes, but that certainly doesn't preclude or throw us off track. So we'll be meeting on that tomorrow morning and then we'll be able to apprise the Commission further on what conclusions we'll reach, what we want to hear more detail on just what UNESCO has in mind.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: I certainly plan on being at that meeting and I hope there will be other Commissioners who will be able to attend.

MR. CHALLINOR: I'll attend.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: Okay. We are now down to--

MR. HORTON: Sorry. One more point really reminds me about that.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: Yes.

MR. HORTON: Patricia and NCLIS have also been for the kind of a U.S. preparatory meeting October 9th and 10th at the Commission in Washington to sort of get the U.S.

act together. And you have here, I think in the back of the room, she's hiding from us, but she's wearing a very attractive helmet.

MS. JONES: Which I love.

MR. HORTON: Lorna Jones who we hope who will be attending the meeting tomorrow. So that's kind of an advance meeting and you're welcomed to come to. I don't know whether I've got the authority to say that but the meeting will be October the 9th and 10th.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: Yes. And hopefully there will be Commissioners who will be able to also attend. It will depend, I guess, on our schedules.

We are now down to the Alexandria Library.

MR. HORTON: We've invited to join us today Professor Bahaa El-Hadidy who is sitting in the front row who is now happily retired but like so many of us other retirees finds himself back again. Very active, has been for many years ever since -- particularly in the context of the special interest group on international information. Bahaa was instrumental in putting on the first international information conference in Egypt in 1982 and is now discussing with the new director for the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, at the Alexandria Library in Alexandria, Egypt, the possibility of a second international information conference. So we would like if you could give us a report on that, Bahaa, and perhaps also enlighten us on the opening of the library which we understood was to take place in April.

BAHAA EL-HADIDY: Thank you. Well, actually the idea of the second international information conference in Egypt and the efforts that developed was talking about a year and a half ago as Woody said so substantially first international information conference which I talked about as we had spoke, and, of course, the occasion of the opening of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in time for the second conference. We started to negotiate with the authorities of the library a year and a half ago and we went then to discuss the conference. However, at one point I learned that there had been postponement of the opening of the library and as well as I learned that there's some changes in the management of the library as well. So I kept the project on hold until this year.

About two weeks ago, about six weeks or more ago I've been informed that the Egyptian authorities announced the completion of the deliberation date to be April 23rd of 2002. I've also been informed that the new director of the library has been appointed which is Dr. Ismail Serageldin. Dr. Serageldin has spent about twenty-nine years in World Bank and he was the Vice President of the bank before retirement last year. So it was a very good step as was the development of the library you mentioned before.

I communicated with Dr. Serageldin who I've known for three years during my teaching in Washington and we reached some agreements about the conference. My new direction about the old conference is to that the conference would really serve the objectives of the

library. Because there has been many efforts to develop it and it's going very slow. The major objective for the library is to acquire resources as much as possible in the heritage and developments of many fields of knowledge from the old times to the -- until the modern time civilization it is probably based on the Bibliotheca Alexandrina Library --

And they have been doing that for some time to collecting in different forums. Of course, one of the major ideas was about the digital conference and of course that was the plan. So I told Serageldin that I'm thinking of that direction and at the same time the conference would serve as a step forward for -- to go to the library in developing additional collection. And I thought agents would be -- that can help in developing an international forum to develop the digital centers at the Library. He was very specific about the idea and recently transferred the agreement that the conference would be held in 2003. And that the theme of the conference would be on digital knowledge and that we, that the conference would be co-sponsored by ASIS and the -- that of question he wants to have every league, very strong conference and at the same time, of course, this has always been the objective of ASIS. So we have decided that we would go ahead and develop the outline of the organization of the conference and try to get that done in a reasonable time.

I thought we could do that the first week of November at the annual meetings of the -- ASIS' vote -- I'm sorry -- Last year the idea of a principle of the conference and giving the okay to go ahead and do whatever possible as the chair of the three international information issues to develop that project and report to them. I'm personally very perceptive of that and I'm trying to get as much as possible international help towards that conference and the most important, the early part of the project of a digital center there. I think it's a very good step because we complete the, whatever the old library has been doing and the objective of the new library.

I've been informed today by Mr. Abid that UNESCO would be also very interested in supporting both the conference and the project and in the upcoming weeks developing a steering committee from ASIS to put down the outline for it. It would be mainly based on the model I developed at the first conference where there, of course, with the conference sponsored by U.S. or in addition to U.S. and in addition from developing country is not an easy task. And thinking of other tools how we do that, how we communicate and how to cooperate in having a strong conference is very important. I hope you will be interested in that and support us in these efforts. Thank you. Any questions -- I'll be happy to --

MS. CHALLINON: I'd like to point out that the day you chose, April 23rd, happens to be Shakespeare's birthday.

MR. BAHAA EL-HADIDY: Oh, it's a good thing.

MS. CHALLINON: That's a nice tie-in.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: Are there any questions at this point? Marilyn, Robert?

MR. MARTIN: Thank you. I have one question. Is the digital technology on agreement on the basis of are they looking for additional co-sponsor organizers or is it your understanding that they will, there may be a steering committee proposed of other organizations that they will be the only two primary co-sponsors?

MR. BAHAA EL-HADIDY: Up to now the agreement we had with the Alexandrina that the conference would be co-sponsored through her. We'd be open to any ideas, of course, or any organization which would be interested with us. Of course, again, it would be the position made by both you -- both places and the Bibliotheca Alexandrina Library. So we welcome any ideas, any that show interest in.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: Woody?

MR. HORTON: I might mention for the record that both Martha and Joan have been invited to the opening ceremonies by Dr. Serageldin. We received that message from him.

MR. BAHAA EL-HADIDY: He will be there, and I think both agents decided that Busch the President, and ASIS' Matsuura would be present -- of the future ASIS again.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: And you will keep in touch with Woody Horton and keep us apprised of the planning for this conference?

MR. BAHAA EL-HADIDY: I would, yes.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: And we will -- much of what we will do in the next year is going to depend on the actions of Congress on which we wait with bated breath.

MR. BAHAA EL-HADIDY: I understand.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: Thank you. We are delighted that you are here.

MR. BAHAA EL-HADIDY: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: Bob, I believe you have some comments that you wish to make.

MR. WILLARD: What a difference a word makes. One of the things I've had to do as part of our budgetary problem is immerse myself much more into the history of the Commission and look at the legislative adjustments that have been made to it over its life. It was in 1991 that there were technical amendments to the Commission's law. It was at that time that one of the requirements, one of the "thou shalt's" in the Commission's authorities was changed. It reads now "to promote research and development activities which will extend and improve the nation's library and information handling capability as essential links in national and international communications and cooperative networks."

The words "and international" were added to our law only as recently as 1999. It is something that I would say that most of us don't pay a lot of attention to. The Commission has such a rich full agenda for as tiny an organization as we are, that we sometimes forget about this international component. That's why I was very glad that we had this opportunity to have a Commission meeting in the context of IFLA and focus exclusively on all those various international initiatives that are currently on our plate. I hope you get a feeling for how rich and broad they are.

We really couldn't do it without the leadership of Joan Challinor as Chair of our --

MS. CHALLINOR: Woody Horton. I cannot take that.

MR. WILLARD: -- without the leadership of Joan Challinor as Chair of our International Committee. And of course, we couldn't do it without Woody Horton.

Woody came to us primarily, one of the Commissioners, I can't remember who, but one of the Commissioners suggested that maybe he would be a good assistant to the Commission in terms of our government information activities. And truly he was. But with his long and deep involvement in international activities through FID, early involvement with IFLA and many other places as international activities he brought to the Commission a really deep understanding of the issues involved in international Commission policy but more importantly the people and the processes, because it is a different world and because sometimes a much slower world, a more complex world in terms of dealing with the individual perspectives. And Woody has the experience that's been invaluable to the Commission in terms of allowing us to live up to that one little word that's added and to make us an incredible player on the world scene.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: Thank you, Bob. I feel very strongly and I am delighted that the Commission is moving in this direction. We are becoming truly a global village and technology has broken down a number of barriers, and so I feel that the Commission has a very appropriate role on the international scene and I'm delighted to see us moving in that direction.

Well, we -- yes, Joan.

MS. CHALLINOR: May I put in what I just wrote? That I think I would love to have a sense of the Commission to thank the Boston Public Library for making both the room downstairs and this room available and to congratulate IFLA and its American organizers on a splendid conference.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: Thank you.

Marilyn, would you like to sort of do a formal motion?

MS. MASON: Yes, I would, and I completely concur in what Joan said and would like to formally move that the class of reservation thank the Boston Public Library especially

honor their hospitality. As a former library director I know it can be a formidable task to deploy the space and staff and everyone. I think that it's been most helpful and it is difficult to add that additional level of duties in a functioning library. I mean, they're open today, you know. So I think that we would want to. I agree with you, I second Joan's resolution.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: It has been moved and seconded. Are there any objections?

MS. HOLAHAN: It is unanimously passed.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: It is unanimously passed. Thank you, Joan, and thank you, Marilyn.

MS. MASON: Could I add that the room that we are sitting in, this used to be a young adult reading room, is now the Friends of the Library's room and the books that you see around here are all of the discarded books and things that they sort and then sell to raise additional funds to the library. We are also grateful to them for stepping aside and allowing their space to be cleared for a meeting room.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: We will add the fringe to the resolution.

I would like also at this time to note the fact that Rebecca Bingham is not here today; unfortunately, she is currently in the hospital. Her condition is not known at this time. Our thoughts are with her. We have already sent flowers but I believe she is in the Jewish Hospital in Louisville, Kentucky. We will keep the Commissioners apprised of her condition as soon as we know what is happening.

Because we are waiting action of Congress and because we do not have a full complement at this point of Commissioners, a lot of our work will be done sort of quietly in the background by staff and we will just continue doing what we do as best we can until we know what our budget is and until we have the new Commissioners on board.

Bob, do you have any other comment you'd like to make?

MR. WILLARD: No.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: At this point we are moving ahead very nicely. I would invite comments and questions from members of the audience. You have the floor. And please, if you have anything to say would you introduce yourself when you make a comment. Just don't sit there and look at us.

(Laughter.)

MS. CHALLINOR: Nobody has to.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: Nobody has to. That's true. Do you think maybe that all of that on the floor is indicative of the state of technology today? (Laughter) I mean, we're talking about all of the improvements in technology. Look at the spaghetti down there.

MS. CHALLINOR: Well, we were to have the Jose-Griffiths part of our meeting and our technology failed. She is in Pittsburgh and sitting around waiting to be part of this meeting.

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: On the speakerphone that didn't speak. It's probably in there somewhere (laughter).

Are there any additional remarks from members of the Commission? Nobody has anything to say?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON GOULD: We are adjourned.

(Whereupon, the meeting concluded at 5:00 p.m.)