

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE RECORDS OF CONGRESS
MEETING #29
JUNE 13, 2005
ROOM H-137, THE CAPITOL

MINUTES

Members of the committee in attendance: Jeff Trandahl, Chair (Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives); Emily J. Reynolds (Secretary, U.S. Senate); Allen Weinstein (Archivist of the U.S.); Richard A. Baker (Historian, U.S. Senate); Robert V. Remini (Historian, U.S. House of Representatives); Joseph Cooper (Department of Political Science, Johns Hopkins University); Paul Gherman (University Librarian, Vanderbilt University); Timothy Johnson (Curator of Special Collections, Wilson Library, University of Minnesota); Alan C. Lowe (Executive Director, Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy, University of Tennessee); Guy L. Rocha (Nevada State Archivist, Nevada State Library and Archives)

The meeting opened at 10:03 a.m.

I. Chair's Opening Remarks – Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House

Jeff Trandahl opened the meeting by expressing appreciation for all the services and work that committee members have done in previous Congresses and noting the many goals and changes ahead. Unfortunately, Susan Palmer would not be joining the meeting as she was delayed. Trandahl welcomed the new members of the Advisory Committee, Allen Weinstein, Guy Rocha, and Robert Remini. Weinstein is a great addition as the new Archivist of the United States. Rocha is the State Archivist of Nevada and was appointed by Senator Reid. Trandahl was very pleased that Robert Remini was appointed House Historian by the Speaker; he fills the long vacant seat on the Committee. Remini is a renowned and prominent historian coming to the House from the University of Illinois. He is currently writing the history of the House of Representatives.

Trandahl reported on a joint project of the House and Senate to update the *Biographical Directory*. The *Directory* was last published in 1991. It has been maintained and updated

online by the Senate Historical Office and the House Office of History and Preservation for the last 4-5 years. Very soon an updated volume will be published by the Government Printing Office. Trandahl appreciates all the hard work that has gone into updating the *Directory* and preparing it for publication.

Another project of the Clerk's Office has been inventorying the voluminous records accumulated by Trandahl's predecessors and crafting a new, more efficient records management policy for the Office of the Clerk. Trandahl noted that his predecessors did their jobs so well they saved just about everything. The task now is to inventory the records to understand exactly what they are and to distinguish permanent records from those that are temporary. Trandahl's primary goal is to preserve the valuable records. The records that are determined to be unimportant will be disposed of in some fashion, perhaps ultimately destroyed. Trandahl noted the fear in some circles that history would be lost if documents are destroyed and reassured everyone that nothing has been destroyed. He expressed appreciation for Robin Reeder who has done a phenomenal job in pulling together information on the records. The Clerk's Office recognized that they needed appraisal expertise from beyond their internal operating staff, and so they have sought assistance from the National Archives, Joe Cooper, Ray Smock, and Robert Remini. This project to inventory the records and create a records management policy is in the beginning stages and Trandahl hopes to report back to the Committee in the not-too-distant future.

II. Recognition of Co-Chair – Emily Reynolds, Secretary of the Senate

Trandahl recognized his co-chair, Emily Reynolds. Reynolds commented on the great working relationship she and Trandahl have with the Committee and with the National Archives. She mentioned that she and Trandahl have spent roughly half their time of late on issues regarding the Capitol Visitor Center. Reynolds said that it will be a wonderful finished product that everyone can be proud of at the end of the day. She appreciates the support and advice of the Advisory Committee.

Reynolds welcomed Rocha to the Committee. She read his biographical statement and found it most interesting. Rocha mentioned that he hopes to add some color to the Committee.

III. Recognition of the Archivist of the United States – Allen Weinstein

Trandahl welcomed Weinstein to the meeting. Weinstein remarked that he was honored to be a member of the Advisory Committee. He heard about the committee's work well before he became Archivist. John Carlin was a remarkably active and committed member of the committee and Weinstein will try to continue in that vein.

Weinstein admired what Jeff Trandahl and Emily Reynolds have done to ensure bipartisan cooperation on records issues. He thanked them for their extraordinary service and expressed his appreciation for the cooperation and support NARA has received from them over the years. Weinstein complimented his old friends Bob Remini and Dick Baker, referring to Baker as the "ambassador of the United States Congress to C-SPAN."

He also invited the members to tour the Rotunda and Public Vaults exhibit, and said that NARA is pleased to offer personalized tours to those interested.

For those members unfamiliar with NARA, Weinstein highlighted some of the important developments unfolding at the agency. He noted that NARA consists of Archives I, Archives II, the Washington National Records Center, the Federal Register, 11 Presidential libraries, 14 regional archives, and 17 regional records centers. Weinstein plans to visit every NARA installation this year. He added that NARA is in the process of developing a new Strategic Plan, which will be more focused on educational issues than the current plan.

Weinstein also mentioned the recent opening of veterans' records at the National Archives National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis. More than a million records were released, including the records of VIPs such as Elvis Presley. By opening up these records, NARA is reaching out to the ordinary American, to explain how that person has a relationship to the National Archives. The audience for the opening was filled with veterans.

NARA is very conscious of security issues and takes its responsibilities seriously. Weinstein alluded to the recent sentencing of a man who stole documents from the National Archives. With the coming of the Capitol Visitor Center, he knows that document security is uppermost in the minds of the Senate and House as well, and NARA looks forward to working together on security issues.

Weinstein noted that NARA is hosting several exciting programs in the coming months. During Constitution week, NARA will host a congressional dialog to be broadcast directly into schools, either through C-SPAN or a NARA webcast. House and Senate leaders from both parties will be invited to appear on the panel. The topic will be the issue of checks and balances in the electronic era. What effect has the media had? What effect has new technology had on the ability of Congress to do its job? This will be an interactive presentation, with the panelists taking questions from the classrooms.

The Fourth of July program will feature three wounded veterans of the Iraq conflict reading the Declaration of Independence. Instead of asking a political dignitary to do the reading, NARA chose to honor our veterans this year. Weinstein also announced the restoration of the Magna Carta to the halls of the National Archives. Ross Perot, who owns the copy, will be at NARA for the dedication. The Magna Carta is on loan to NARA and it fits nicely with the three charters.

The Electronic Records Archive (ERA) downselect is coming up in August. Two companies are competing for the contract. The July issue of *Tech World*, an MIT publication, has an article on ERA, which will be of interest to this committee.

Weinstein noted that NARA is also exploring cooperative relationships and partnerships – particularly focused on educational programs – with a range of organizations, public

and private. Weinstein is exploring ways to work together with James Billington at the Library of Congress (LOC). NARA is also working with archival organizations such as the Society of American Archivists (SAA) and the Council of State Historical Records Coordinators (COSHRC) to bring them into a consultative relationship with NARA.

Weinstein concluded by inviting the Advisory Committee to hold their next meeting at NARA and thanking them for the opportunity to speak. He also mentioned that NARA is proud to provide any help it can to the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress (ACSC).

Trandahl expressed his appreciation for what Weinstein is doing to improve public access to the nation's documentary treasures.

IV. Approval of the Minutes of the Last Meeting

Trandahl moved to approve the minutes from the last meeting, a motion which was seconded and approved.

V. Capitol Visitor Center Update on Exhibitory/Construction – Bob Hixon and Carol Beebe

Trandahl spoke about the Capitol Visitor Center (CVC) which will be a major enhancement to the experience visitors receive at the Capitol. It is over 500,000 square feet with three stories located underground. Although there has been some negative press regarding the inconvenience and expense of the project, the incredible professional staff

has ensured that construction is proceeding well. Trandahl welcomed Bob Hixon and Carol Beebe to the meeting to give an update on the status of the construction and the planning for the exhibit hall.

Bob Hixon reported that the project is 65% complete. The Sequence 1 contract, which involved installing most of the concrete, is finished. They are now well into the Sequence 2 contract which involves the finish work. Stone is now going up in the food service area and in the Great Hall. The quality of the stonework is excellent. It is now possible for visitors to the construction site to see where the orientation theater will be situated along with the exhibit hall and food service areas. Recently, they were authorized to award the contract for the expansion space for the Senate and House.

The base CVC work is expected to be finished in September of 2006, while the expansion work in the outer areas will be done in December 2006 – March 2007.

The exhibit hall's glass work and floor issues have been resolved. Stonework is being selected. The actual construction was not done as part of Sequence 2 but is part of a separate contract awarded May 1. They are about to finish the procurement of the audio visual contract.

Their relationship with Manhattan, the Sequence 2 contractor, is excellent. The team is comfortable with the schedule. They are in good shape concerning funding. Procurements are essentially done with the exception of a stairwell in the Jefferson Building and the

House connector tunnel. They are completing the installation of the utility tunnel. The team is excited now that the big hurdles they have had to struggle with are behind them. They are working together to successfully accomplish the remaining tasks.

Carol Beebe, exhibition coordinator, then reported on the exhibition gallery part of the CVC. Marty Sewall, exhibition director, was unable to attend and asked Beebe to send the committee her regrets. Beebe reported that the exhibition gallery is on the lower level of the CVC. It is 16,500 square feet and is divided into several different thematic sections that explore different aspects of Congress.

The main section features a minimally glowing glass floor which separates out the section where original documents and artifacts will be displayed. The main feature of the exhibition gallery is a gently curving marble wall into which are set cases for the display of documents. This section is called “National Aspirations” and focuses on the highest goals and objectives that Congress helps us to achieve as a nation and a people: unity, freedom, common defense, general welfare, exploration, and knowledge. In each of these sections there are 3-4 exhibit cases displaying original documents.

On either end of the gallery are facsimiles of the Constitution. On one end, the three branches of government will be explained. On the other end, the powers of the House and Senate will be the focus.

On the far wall, in the alcoves, there will be virtual House and Senate galleries. Since many visitors never see the House and Senate chambers, the virtual galleries will open a window on to those worlds. Live feeds to the chambers as well as pre-produced programs about the chambers will emphasize how Congress works.

On the far wall, in the center, there will be a niche which is directly under the east front stairs. Abraham Lincoln's catafalque will be displayed here. The catafalque is the bier upon which Lincoln's casket laid in state in the Rotunda and upon which all subsequent caskets have laid in state. It will be the centerpiece of an exhibit called "The Nation's Stage," which will be a photographic exhibit of the Capitol as the centerpiece of our national ceremonies, such as inaugurations, medal ceremonies, Fourth of July concerts, protests, and demonstrations.

The end walls will feature a photographic exhibit called "Behind the Scenes." This will be a look at the behind-the-scenes people who make the Capitol run: the officers of the House and Senate, staff members, people who work in the barber shop and run the elevators, and many others who populate the Capitol.

Opposite the "National Aspirations" wall will be an interactive section titled "Your Congress, Your Capitol." Twenty interactive touch screens will allow visitors to take a virtual tour of the Capitol building, learn more about Congress, and discover their role in democracy.

Beebe then turned to a more detailed discussion of the “National Aspirations” exhibit and thanked Richard Hunt and Jessie Kratz as well as other members of the Content Working Group for their tremendous support in helping to select documents for display. NARA, LOC, as well as the House and Senate have been involved. A mixture of documents from NARA and the LOC has been selected to be displayed when the CVC opens. In the “Unity” section, Henry Clay’s draft of the Compromise of 1850, a Senate record, will be displayed. In the “Freedom” section, the Senate revisions to the House passed Bill of Rights and the 19th Amendment will be displayed. Under “Exploration” will be displayed President Jefferson’s confidential message to Congress proposing the Lewis and Clark Expedition, which is a House record. It is hoped that visitors will gain an understanding of the importance of records themselves but also the great work that Congress has done and how that has affected them in their daily lives.

Trandahl remarked on the four million visitors to the Capitol a year. It might be said that the current tour and the experience visitors receive get failing grades. Very little is shown or explained to the visitor. The CVC will be a building solely focused on enhancing the visitor’s experience. Trandahl then focused the discussion on the selection of documents for display. Constructing the CVC is one part, but the second major part is how are the documents selected, how long can they be publicly displayed, and how will rotations be worked out. The archives working group has addressed many of these issues.

Weinstein said excellent work has been done but he had two suggestions. First, he was not certain he understood why the Compromise of 1850 is in the first Unity window

followed by the Revolution and the Constitution. If he were doing this exhibit at the Archives, he would start with the Revolution, then focus on the Constitution and the first Congress, and then go on to feature the 13th, 14th, 15th Amendments or something that similarly transformed the country.

Beebe responded that the documents in this section of the exhibit do not have to be viewed in a linear or chronological fashion. They speak to the universal and timeless themes that define our nation. Furthermore, visitors must be able to approach this part of the exhibit at a variety of starting points.

Weinstein brought up the documents selected for the Education section. Many things have happened in this country since the Northwest Ordinance. He suggested that the Brown v. Board decision might give visitors a sense of where we have come from there to here.

Beebe said that the documents will rotate every six months and different eras will be featured in different rotations. The founding era is highlighted in the first exhibit rotation, but so are accomplishments in more modern periods. There is a lot of story to tell and unfortunately they cannot tell the whole story at once. It is a blessing and a curse to have such a wealth of documents to choose from. They want to tell a comprehensive story, yet the constraints of the gallery and the exhibit cases dictate the parameters.

Joseph Cooper reported that he was bothered by some of the exhibit. There needs to be more emphasis on the salience of issues to modern viewers. Post roads were very important in the 19th century but they won't attract the attention of most visitors. There are some salient pieces of legislation that are not in the exhibit and some things that are not salient that are present. Cooper mentioned the Interstate Commerce Act, food and drug legislation, and Social Security as examples of salient legislation. The exhibit is too 19th century oriented and not oriented enough towards the 20th century. The "Unity" section also bothered him. In this section, you want to show deliberation and how Congress puts the country together. This is difficult to show, and the Compromise of 1850 is not a good illustration as it was a failure in two years. It is an example of failure, not unity.

Robert Remini said he has a problem with the word "unity." It is the wrong word. The word should be "union." The founding fathers were concerned with union. The preamble of the Constitution is about trying to establish a union. The word union is repeated again and again. That is the main theme and that should be shown first. Reaching to the Compromise of 1850 jumps 60 years into what is hoped a success in bringing sovereign states into a Congress. Congress did not mean then what it means today. Then, it meant independent states coming together in order to solve problems. The exhibit needs to show how the effort was made to bring states together to provide a single union.

Trandahl mentioned how Remini, Cooper, and Weinstein were good examples of the 30 people who put the exhibit together and none of whom had the same ideas. The process of selecting themes and documents has been going on for nearly four years.

Cooper mentioned how the exhibits will rotate and there will be opportunities to show more documents later.

Remini said that the opening exhibit should really emphasize the theme of the Congress and what their main job was at the beginning. He then jokingly added, “Aren’t you glad you invited me?” Weinstein also joked that there were too many historians around the table.

Trandahl invited everyone to tour the construction site of the CVC after the meeting.

Richard Baker added that the other side of the “National Aspirations” wall will have a chronological history of Congress and address many of the concerns expressed here today. Beebe added that the history of the House and Senate as separate institutions will be explored as well as the art and architecture of the Capitol building.

VI. Association of Centers for the Study of Congress – Karen Paul

Karen Paul spoke about the third meeting of the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress (ACSC) which was held May 4-5. In many respects, it was the best meeting yet. Congratulations go to Richard Hunt for hosting a stimulating, satisfying, and

informative meeting. Paul also thanked Emily Reynolds and Joe Stewart for hosting a truly splendid dinner at the Capitol, enjoyed by everyone. The ACSC appreciates immensely the support and encouragement that the Advisory Committee has given and continues to give. Paul mentioned the opportunity enjoyed by Dr. Peggy Gordon Miller, President of South Dakota State University, and her vice president of development, Steve Erpenbach – who are interested in establishing a Daschle Center – to attend the conference and learn about the centers and what they do. They were able to meet with some of the most experienced people in that area and they appreciated it very much.

Paul stated that the meeting was the best yet for three reasons. First, more centers attended than ever before. There were 56 registrants as opposed to 29 at the first conference. Forty-two centers now belong to the ACSC. Seven new centers joined just prior to the conference. Second, the program was particularly strong. The participants had the opportunity to learn about the latest and most innovative works in congressional history and their reliance on congressional records. The attendees were able to question authors about their research needs and wishes. A lot of information was provided on potential funding sources for projects to help centers begin to meet those needs. The program also spotlighted exhibit planning, design, and execution which is a topic of wide interest among all the centers. Lastly, the meeting was the best yet because of the successful business meeting. A committee was set up to study and recommend a dues structure which is much needed. Another committee is working on the 501(c)3 status of the Association. A working group was set up to recommend a strategy to proceed with NEH grants. There was no trouble filling the committees with excellent people.

In conclusion, Paul feels there is now a framework in place to create a viable association.

Hunt stated that there are now 42 centers represented in the ACSC but there is not yet one in every state. That is the goal because then we can use that as leverage to reach into every community in every state. The Center for Legislative Archives can collaborate with the centers and the teachers associated with those centers to expand its reach.

Weinstein mentioned that the ACSC is now at a critical point and needs to do two things before it can move forward in a completely effective way. First, Hunt and the others who have cared for the Association need to sit down, perhaps between the major meetings, and try to define the purpose of the Association. This will be a difficult statement of purpose to write – owing to the variety of purposes – but they already have a running start. The Association needs to define both what the inclusiveness factor will be and what the exclusiveness factor will be. Second, at the next meeting there should be a founding document stating here is why we have gathered together and here are the principles to which we adhere as members. Then, there should be a signing ceremony where the members agree to accept the principles and pay dues. Weinstein mentioned that NARA is happy to provide assistance and also to host future meetings.

Trandahl spoke of the need for better support for congressional papers. These papers leave the custody of Congress and go with the individual, hopefully making it into university systems. Trandahl wished we could find financial mechanisms to help the

universities. At the same time, whatever funding is provided should not come at the expense of National Archives. We need to be creative in coming up with solutions. If there is not a system to capture these documents, the vast majority may be lost.

VII. Institute on the Teaching of Congress and the Presidency – Alan Lowe

Lowe reported on the Institute on the Teaching of Congress and the Presidency which was hosted by the Howard Baker Center the past week. The Baker Center has a mission that at its core is about educating students and others about our means of public governance. The Baker Center believes that students must achieve higher civic awareness before they can discharge their civic responsibilities. They need to understand how the system works and the history before they can be effective participating citizens. The Baker Center has accomplished this mission in a number of ways including this summer institute but also, for example, at a recent summit which it hosted in Nashville and which brought together people to talk about the importance of civics in the curriculum.

Lowe attended the Texas Humanities Institute on Congress and American History the previous summer which was hosted by Mike Gillette in Austin. He found it a wonderful and inspiring experience and returned to Knoxville determined to hold a similar event in Tennessee. Before working at the Baker Center, Lowe worked for many years with NARA's Presidential Library system, so he knew right away that he wanted to include the presidency even more in the discussion and to talk about the relationship of Congress to the presidency.

Using Gillette's successful model and getting advice from his friends around the table, including Richard Hunt, Dick Baker, Emily Reynolds, and Joe Cooper, the Baker Center put together a stellar lineup of 27 expert speakers for a four-and-one-half day institute. The goal was to give teachers great content to take back and use in their classrooms. In the mornings the teachers heard from the speakers, and in the afternoons they participated in workshops, thinking of ways to put content to use in their classrooms and to begin drafting lesson plans. Charlie Flanagan from the Key School in Annapolis led the workshops. In addition, Hunt and Christine Blackerby from the Center for Legislative Archives led a well-received workshop on Congress and war-making powers. The teachers especially loved the use of facsimile documents and Lowe hoped to increase the use of this in future institutes.

The Baker Center talked with local school leaders, civic groups, and non-profits on how to best contact and involve interested teachers. Teachers had to apply, write why they wanted to be a part of the institute, and give references. The Baker Center ended up with 23-24 teachers who all proved to be dedicated and engaged participants. For the out-of-town teachers, the Baker Center provided dorm accommodations and money for meals.

The institute was a little costly but not as much as originally thought. They received some funding from a group called The Great Schools Partnership, a local non-profit, as well as from the Tennessee Department of Education and the University of Tennessee's College of Education, Health, and Human Services. Free computers were donated for the week and the University of Tennessee Law School provided the institute with free space.

The feedback from the teachers and speakers was overwhelmingly positive. One teacher at the graduation dinner said it had been the greatest experience of his professional life. When the teachers left, they had seven draft lesson plans in hand. The Baker Center plans to continue working with the teachers throughout the fall to further hone those lesson plans. The Baker Center worked hard to choose topics based on Tennessee curriculum requirements, which the teachers appreciated. In the future, the institute will feature expanded workshops to help teachers draft lesson plans.

The teachers that participated now form a core group to work on other Baker Center educational initiatives, as well as to be the eyes and ears in the school system for the Baker Center. A partnership was formed which will improve the state of civics and history education.

Remini asked if there was an ongoing relationship between the University of Tennessee Center for the study of the three Tennessee presidents, Andrew Jackson, James Polk, and Andrew Johnson, and the Baker Center. Lowe replied that the Tennessee Presidents Center provided speakers at the institute, and the two centers have collaborated on other projects. The Baker Center's emphasis is more on the modern age than the 19th century, but there are lots of ways to partner and collaborate, and they hope to do more in the future.

Weinstein suggested that next time they may want to bring in some of the amazing political talent that Tennessee has displayed over the last several decades and invite Al Gore, Bill Brock, Lamar Alexander, or Bill Frist to speak. Lowe replied that they would love this. Senator Baker addressed the institute on its first day and it was a very special treat for the teachers.

Reynolds said it was great to see Senator Baker and as a Tennessean, she was very thankful to Lowe and the rest of the Baker Center staff for putting on such a wonderful institute. She hopes others will continue to emulate the model.

Remini asked if there were any plans to publish the proceedings. Lowe responded that not at this point, but they will consider it. They video-taped the proceedings and that will be available on their website.

Cooper remarked that one has to study Congress in relation to the Presidency. Weinstein said that you cannot study the Presidency without understanding Congress and he hopes the Presidential Libraries will focus more on the role of Congress.

VIII. Congressional Web Harvest – John Kane

Kane reported on NARA's web harvesting project. NARA determined the content of federal web sites to be records of archival value that should be preserved and made available for future generations. After preliminary explorations, NARA conducted a harvest, or automatic collection, of federal web sites at the end of President Bush's first

term and the end of the 108th Congress. NARA intends to continue to collect these documents of historic value in a method that is least intrusive to the people who manage those sites.

The list of sites for the initial harvest were “.gov” and “.mil” sites from the General Services Administration’s “.gov” internet domain registry and the Defense Information Systems Agency. This initial list of URLs resulted in 984 high level, active, and unrestricted federal sites. This was used as a seed list to begin the harvest. Those sites and any unrestricted sites linked to them with “.gov” or “.mil” extensions were collected. In all, the harvest collected six-and-one-half terabytes of information, or roughly 75 million pages of web content from about 50,000 federal websites.

Kane said the Senate archivist noted that archiving at four-year intervals would miss major changes in historically significant congressional web content for every odd numbered Congress. NARA then modified its harvesting schedule to include changes after each congressional election. NARA has met with the Senate archivist, Senate web masters and IT managers and received an initial list of Senate URLs. NARA is doing the same with House counterparts.

The web harvest is limited to what can be technically gathered at this point and that is what is called the static content of the web. Static content is that part of the web that does not require any participation by those logging on.

The harvested snapshots of congressional web sites will be suitably documented as a public record and made accessible to the public on the web. Each page will be properly labeled as a NARA record in a header prominently displayed with the date of capture. In addition, all of the links off the websites will be blocked so people will see these as historical records and not get them confused with the active web.

The harvest will be conducted in late 2006 before the 109th Congress adjourns. It will be publicly available on NARA's website upon completion of the harvest.

Paul Gherman commented that the Association of Research Libraries, the largest group of libraries across the United States, was very interested in capturing federal information on the web and maintaining it, housing it, and indexing it. A great deal may come of NARA talking with the Association of Research Libraries and forming some kind of collaboration. There is a lot of common interest. NARA could pull together the efforts of 100 major universities to work on this. The issue is so large it is going to be hard for any one institution to manage it alone.

IX. Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress Fourth Report

Trandahl stated that Robin Reeder will contact people about writing sections of the Fourth Report to the Advisory Committee.

X. Activities Report of the Center for Legislative Archives – Richard Hunt

Hunt reported on the activities of the Center for Legislative Archives. First, he noted how pleased he is to have Allen Weinstein as the new archivist of the United States. When Weinstein came and met with Hunt and gave him a green light on the Center's educational programs, Hunt knew he would be supportive and looks forward to working closely with him.

Hunt is also very heartened by the teaching institutes, the one last year in Austin and the one this year in Tennessee. He has felt for many years that those of us advocating teaching about Congress were in the wilderness a bit, and that people were unaware of why it is important to teach about Congress. Now he sees how eager teachers are to add the congressional dimension and congressional history to instruction in American history and American government classes.

Hunt then turned his remarks to the status of the records of the 9/11 Commission. The blessing of receiving these significant records has created some resource demands and challenges for the Center. The Center is preserving, processing, and reviewing those records prior to the January 2009 opening of the unclassified records. One archivist who is the Center's access specialist is working on the records full time. Two other archivists are trained and working part-time on reviewing the records. The assistant director also spends a good deal of time on the records. In addition, the Center has borrowed two access specialists from the FOIA and Special Access staff of NARA. They are working on the records part-time but will probably have to devote their full attention to them over

the next 3-4 years. Bob Spangler is in charge of all the electronic records of the Commission and he has other demands on his time. One of the few saving graces is Diana Campagna who was the executive assistant/records officer/office manager for the Commission and whom NARA has hired to work part-time as a consultant. She will be a wonderful asset in processing the records.

The team is doing a page-by-page review and has, to date, examined over 16,000 pages of records in one of the critical series. The team is also creating screening guidelines that can be shared with other staff.

We are also busy providing access in response to official government requests. These requests come from agencies, Congress, and the courts, who in their ongoing business and continuing investigations have had cause to use the 9/11 Commission records.

The Center survived a public deluge of interest in February when the Commission posthumously issued its final monograph. Since the monograph was in NARA's custody, the Center's staff received a cascade of requests from the media, families of the victims, lawyers, and interested researchers for copies of the report. Thankfully, NARA had the report online by the end of the day which diverted traffic to our website and the staff could resume their normal work.

Hunt closed the discussion of the 9/11 Commission with the observation that NARA needs to be more involved with the records management of these temporary

commissions. Because these commissions work in such a hurry and under such great pressure and then disappear at a moment's notice, NARA needs to be more involved in the front end to help these commissions set up records management systems to preserve these valuable records.

Hunt happily reported that the renovation of the National Archives Building is slowly coming to a close. The Center's staff have all returned to their permanent office space. Sensitive Compartmented Information Facilities (SCIF) space has been added for the House and Senate and also for the Center's holdings. The new Legislative Treasures vault will be completed in the fall. It is much larger than the last space and has improved security and fire suppression systems. Hunt looks forward to the day when Reynolds and Trandahl can come down to see the new vault and consider the move of the treasures back to the building downtown.

Hunt acknowledged Michael Kurtz's support of the Center and help in meeting its staffing needs. Matt Fulgham has been promoted as assistant director of the Center. He is in charge of the archival program. Tom Eisinger, former Senate Governmental Affairs Committee archivist, has joined the staff and is a great addition.

Trandahl seconded Hunt's concern over records management in temporary commissions. The 9/11 Commission did an excellent job of records management thanks to their hiring of Diana Campagna, but many commissions are probably not so forward-thinking. The

legislation creating temporary commissions needs to mention the end process and the handling of records. This is critical.

Weinstein mentioned that the Commission presents extraordinary demands including the fact that it has gone out of business legally but not spiritually or practically. The question then becomes who is advising the Public Discourse Project (PDP) on the records it generates now. Hunt responded that Diana Campagna also works for the PDP and advises them on records management. Weinstein said he feels the records that are being generated now logically should go to NARA.

The meeting adjourned at 11:34 a.m.