

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE RECORDS OF CONGRESS
MEETING #32
DECEMBER 4, 2006
THE U.S. CAPITOL BUILDING
ROOM H-137

MINUTES

Members of the committee in attendance: Karen Haas, Chair (Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives); Emily J. Reynolds, Co-Chair (Secretary, U.S. Senate); Allen Weinstein (Archivist of the U.S.); Richard A. Baker (Historian, U.S. Senate); 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 10:05 a.m.

I. Chair's Opening Remarks – Karen Haas, Clerk of the House

Karen Haas welcomed all committee members and gave a report on the recent developments in the Office of the Clerk.

The *Women in Congress* publication has been completed and submitted to the Government Printing Office (GPO) for printing, and is expected to be out in early 2007. The biographical book profiling 229 females who served in Congress was last published in 1991. Haas recognized and thanked Matt Wasniewski, the editor, for his work on the publication.

The Oral Histories project started in 2004 continues. To date there are approximately 60 hours of audio and video of longtime House employees. Kathleen Johnson is the person responsible for getting this project incorporated into the office operations.

Haas also noted the recent C-SPAN special programs on the Capitol. They first aired in June 2006, and again over the Thanksgiving holiday. The film contains footage of many areas of the Capitol that are never seen by the public. Haas thanked the staff at the Architect of the Capitol, as well as House and Senate staff, for their participation in a wonderful film.

Haas mentioned that the most important item on the agenda, the approval of the *Fourth Report*, would be discussed later in the meeting.

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

Haas recognized the Secretary of the Senate, and co-chair of the Advisory Committee, Emily Reynolds. Haas thanked Reynolds for her helpfulness and for a wonderful year.

Reynolds acknowledged that working with the Advisory Committee, working with Jeff Trandahl, former Clerk of the House, and working with Karen Haas this last year had been one of the highlights of her tenure as the Senate's 31st Secretary. She thanked Haas for all that she learned from her, particularly regarding the Capitol Visitor Center (CVC).

Reynolds spoke first about two of the most recent publications from the Senate Historical Office. The first, *200 Notable Days*, is an outgrowth of the historical minutes that Dick Baker

has delivered for some time for the Democratic Caucus at their weekly policy luncheons. She thanked Dick and his incredibly able team. Reynolds also acknowledged the GPO for an incredible job in the design and manufacture of the publication. Reynolds noted that it is a wonderful treasure, which she presented to all members of the Senate. She also wanted the Advisory Committee members to have a copy as well. The publication is available in the Senate gift shop.

The second, published in time for the new member orientation, is the *New Members Guide to Traditions of the United States Senate*. Reynolds remarked that the folklore of institutions combines elements of myth with day-to-day life and activity. It is intriguing for new members as well as the general public. Reynolds again thanked Dick Baker's team, noting that he inspired the work, and thanked the GPO for yet another outstanding job. Baker added that it would not have been possible without Reynolds' support.

Reynolds then thanked the Archivist of the United States, Allen Weinstein, for hosting an evening event and a lovely supper for the newly-elected Senate members. The senators-elect were here for four days. The election was Tuesday, they arrived on the following Monday, and eight of the ten new members were able to participate in a tremendous evening at the Archives. They toured the "treasures" vault with Richard Hunt. Reynolds wanted the new senators to see the documents that have driven the history of the country, and the United States Senate, and to make that link particularly after the campaigns they had all been through. Reynolds wanted the senators to have an understanding of the history that preceded them, and noted that the evening was magical in many ways.

Reynolds discussed the tax issues relating to members' papers, noting that as much as one gets accomplished in the course of the year, there are some things that are left on the table. The issue will continue to be addressed by her successor and Karen Paul.

Reynolds then introduced her successor, Nancy Erickson. She predicted a smooth transition having worked with Erickson the last four years when Erickson was in Senator Daschle's office and in the Sergeant at Arms operation where they spent many hours working together on the CVC. Reynolds noted it has been a great working relationship and Erickson is a tremendous pick.

Reynolds ended with profound thanks and gratitude to all and stated that it had been a wonderful four years and she would never have dreamed that the Archives and this Advisory Committee would have captured her imagination as much as it had.

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

Haas recognized Allen Weinstein and thanked him for his support of the Committee and on other special projects.

The Archivist began by saying how extraordinary it has been working with Emily Reynolds and Karen Haas. It has meant a great deal to him and his colleagues at the Archives and he thanked them both.

Weinstein announced that the National Archives is becoming a supporting institutional member of the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress (ACSC).

He also reported on the flood at the Archives on June 25 and the busted-pipe crisis at Suitland that resulted in 40,000 boxes of wet records. The McGowan Theater was closed approximately 16 weeks and since reopening has had more visitors than the previous year.

The Archivist then briefly summarized the activities of the National Archives. He reported on the reclassification of documents and announced that 53 percent of records removed are now publicly available. Of these reshelved documents, only 46 percent have redactions. There are new procedures in place—the results of cooperation between the intelligence agencies and the public interest groups—which should address and resolve the problems of the past.

Lockheed Martin and the National Archives are working together and moving forward with the Electronic Records Archives. The goal is to have the first increment in place by the end of 2007.

The National Archives also created a new ten-year strategic plan. A new strategic goal is the agency's commitment to the promotion of civic literacy and education. Every facet within the National Archives, including records centers, regional archives, presidential libraries, and centers in Washington, are engaged in major educational activities. The National Archives

recently hosted 300 delegates to the National Council for the Social Studies, the premier organization for teachers.

The Archivist then held up a new NARA publication entitled “Federal Records Relating to Civil Rights in the Post World War II Era.” He also brought to the Committee’s attention a recent issue of the *Public Historian* which has a number of articles on Presidential libraries, primarily the Nixon Library which will open as soon as a budget is confirmed. Tim Naftali, the new director, has taken over the programs at the Nixon Library and the transition is smooth.

The Archivist shared information for those interested in the Archives exhibits, including the catalog for the “Eyewitness” exhibit, and urged members of the committee to visit the National Archives.

Karen Haas thanked the Archivist and the staff at the Archives for their assistance and expertise.

IV. Approval of the Minutes of the Last Meeting

Haas moved to approve the minutes from the last meeting and asked if there were any corrections. Her motion was seconded and the minutes were approved as written.

V. Reflections of parting members

With the approaching end of the 109th Congress, Haas invited Advisory Committee members to take a few minutes to share any reflections with the group before moving to the next order of business.

Joe Cooper commended Allen Weinstein and the National Archive for what they had done with respect to congressional records, but also for joining the ACSC. He suggested that for future congressional research this committee can be most helpful if it is involved in working with the ACSC. The Archives' membership in the ACSC has important symbolic and substantive value.

Guy Rocha thanked Karen Paul for helping with the problem he had in his state with the tax issue and helping to find a solution for a former member's papers. He hopes that legislation will be passed to provide greater incentives for the preservation of congressional papers.

Paul Gherman said that it has been a privilege to serve on the committee and a wonderful learning experience. One of the things that most impresses him is the tremendous challenge we face, especially in the digital area. He observed that the digital history of our nation is at risk and that a great deal more attention must be brought to the issue. The National Archives and the university community must find a way to coordinate its activities in this critical area.

Emily Reynolds thanked Gherman, her appointee, for his service and noted that Vanderbilt University is recognized as a premier, national institution.

Alan Lowe said that it had been a privilege for him to serve on the committee, and it had been an honor to work with all of the members of the committee under the leadership of Karen Haas, Jeff Trandahl, and Emily Reynolds. It was a joy being part of a committee that actually accomplished important things with a very critical focus. Lowe agreed with Joe Cooper's point about working with the ACSC and fostering the growth of that group.

Lowe thought that the committee had touched on a lot of subjects in past meetings. He thanked Richard Hunt, the Director of the Center for Legislative Archives, and his staff for their fantastic work.

Lowe said he thought that in addition to talking about the preservation and access of records there should be more thought about use of the records. You can make records as accessible as possible, but in the end you want people to use the records. The Baker Center, other congressional centers here in Washington, and Presidential Libraries need to focus in the future on getting more students and scholars using the materials.

Looking to the future, how can we make connections between congressional papers and other types of papers, for example presidential papers and scientific papers? We are now trying to determine at the Baker Center, as we talk about public policy and nuclear energy, who are the

interested parties—and where are the papers—that must be consulted to cover the broad range of interests in a field of such great importance.

Emily Reynolds thanked Alan Lowe on behalf of Senator Frist for his service on the committee. She noted that it was important to her to have the University of Tennessee represented at the table. As a point of personal pride, and having worked for Howard Baker, Reynolds remarked that it is wonderful to see Lowe's work at the Baker Center.

Tim Johnson began by mentioning two very special Richards, (Richard Baker and Richard Hunt) and how much he has enjoyed working the last eight years with both of them. It has been a very special time not only working with Baker and Hunt, but also with Karen Paul.

Johnson said one of the important things he would take from the experience is the joy of seeing more and more material available on the Internet, and seeing more people involved with, and aware of Congressional records.

Johnson's recommendation to new committee members, now that the committee is old enough and there are members who have an institutional memory of the work of this committee, is to use that expertise, that reservoir of experience, as a resource. Johnson said he would continue to track the progress of the committee. He then thanked Reynolds and Haas and said it had been a joy to work with them.

Dick Baker commented that this committee has really been a spark plug ever since its first meeting in 1991. We have been privileged for the past sixteen years to have people who were at the top of their professions, and people with good ideas and insights, on the committee. Baker suggested that to appreciate the value of the Fourth Report, and more broadly the work of this committee and how it has matured, look on the Archives website at the First Report as a point of comparison. The committee has come a long way.

Baker commented that the work of this committee made it possible for the ACSC to develop, and the committee helped the National Archives develop the excellent Center for Legislative Archives. He never tires of saying that when he was first involved with the National Archives, there were two people in the old Archives that had responsibility for the records of Congress. And their responsibility was to make sure that the committees knew that someone wanted to get in to use those records, even if the records dated from the 1850's, and to make sure that the committees granted access. It was not the welcoming, open-arms approach that Weinstein and his immediate predecessors have created.

Haas mentioned that Susan Palmer was not able to attend the meeting, but she wanted to thank Palmer and Tim Johnson for all of their work on the committee. Concurring with Dick Baker, she said that one of the things that impressed her in the short time she has been on the committee is the input given by the committee and reflected in the Fourth Report.

Richard Hunt read Susan Palmer's email. "I've served on the Advisory Committee since 1999. In these eight years I've seen many people come and go and many important issues

addressed. I truly believe that I've learned from all of you as much as I've given. It has been an honor to have served on this important committee. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors and look forward to seeing the CVC spring to life in the near future. It will be exciting to see our work reflected in the wonderful new exhibit on the history of Congress. Thank you for many wonderful experiences that I will always remember.”

VI. Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress Fourth Report – Robin Reeder

Haas recognized Robin Reeder, the House Archivist, to talk about the Fourth Report and any changes that have been made.

Reeder reported that during the last meeting in June, we received very good feedback from the committee regarding changes to the Fourth Report. A copy of those changes is included in your packet. The bulk of the changes were regarding the recommendations and their status. They were extensively updated and regrouped into categories of Records Management, Preservation, and Access. The Preservation recommendations were prioritized. The Center for Legislative Archives included extensive updates regarding its activities, especially on the recent floods. The publication will be printed in January.

Haas thanked Robin Reeder, Karen Paul, the Center for Legislative Archives, and all those involved with producing the Fourth Report. Haas opened the floor for discussion of the Fourth Report.

Reynolds suggested having the opening date for the CVC read either late 2007 or early 2008. Also, Reynolds asked for confirmation of the 600-seat cafeteria number.

Joe Cooper said that being a member of the committee was enjoyable, but the completion of the Fourth Report was facilitated by the work of people like Reeder and others who wrote an excellent report.

Tim Johnson asked about the status of the CVC film.

Haas reported that the film is in the final stages of production. Some of the CVC staff, the House and Senate Historians, and House Curator have viewed the film. Congressional Preservation Commission (CPC) members will have an opportunity to look at the film this week and provide feedback.

Tim Johnson asked if the film would be digital and available on DVD, or mounted on the CVC website so that it could be accessed remotely.

Haas responded that the film will be done in HDTV. Digital and web access is currently in the development stage. One of the keys to this whole project is the educational component of the website. At this point in time, Haas is not aware of any final decisions regarding the educational site, but thinks as the website is developed for the CVC they will consider making the film available via the Internet.

Reynolds noted that Nancy Erickson, Senator Reid's appointee, is very knowledgeable about CVC construction and operational issues. The report is a very accurate, well-written summation. There are no surprises in terms of the exhibits and the film, as Marty Sewell has been a driving force on the project.

Haas called for a motion to approve the Fourth Report. It was so moved, seconded, and approved.

VII. Congressional Papers Roundtable Report – Karen Paul

Haas recognized Karen Paul to talk about the Congressional Papers Roundtable (CPR). The annual conference for the Society of American Archivists (SAA) was held in Washington, DC, this past August. The CPR had some special events prior to the conference that Karen Paul will talk about.

Paul said it was an enriching experience that started at the Manuscripts Division of the Library of Congress (LOC), and although the LOC does not typically collect modern congressional papers, it did receive the 3000-box collection of Daniel Patrick Moynihan. Details from LOC about the processing of the collection were impressive, and Paul stated that it offered a worthwhile model for those working in archives and repositories. LOC did a wonderful job of working with historians and shaping the finding aid to the collection.

The other interesting thing is that LOC accepted the constituent mail contained in the Moynihan collection. The value of constituent mail is an open issue, but the LOC

Manuscripts Division found it useful in processing the rest of the collection, because the mail was much better organized than the staff files. They gave a wonderful tip on soliciting collections. Paul said that as long as she had been involved in the process of identifying and selecting papers repositories, she was still amazed to find that some institutions with an interest in congressional papers fail to contact prospective donors. All would benefit by talking with John Haynes at LOC about the process followed to solicit collections in general.

Concerning the knotty issue we have been dealing with on the gift tax policy on members' papers, it was noted that the LOC does accept collections on deposit and has no problem doing so. Paul said she knew a lot of institutions in the states seem to have a problem with this approach, but if the Library can do it maybe we all need to seriously consider it. The real concern is that a collection might be withdrawn before the deed of gift is actually signed. LOC includes a clause in the deposit agreement that says if the material is withdrawn the donor is responsible for reimbursing the Library.

The second interesting presentation at the LOC was on their project that started in 2000 as a pilot project, on collecting and preserving websites. They assembled a team to evaluate, select, collect, catalog and provide access to websites. They initially focused on U.S. elections. Later, the project was expanded to include the Iraq War, September 11, Supreme Court nominations, health care, terrorism, e-journals, political blogs and non-profit advocacy groups. Election sites have also been expanded and they now include third party candidates, animated cartoons on the JibJab website, and campaign site companies used by low-budget candidates. This material is available at loc.gov/webcapture.

The CPR next convened to Senate offices to have a demonstration of an electronic records system. It was an opportunity to see first-hand what some of the Senate offices are doing with electronic filing, and helped de-mystify the process and prepare archivists for the electronic records they will ultimately acquire in members' collections.

The CPR reconvened at the Center for Legislative Archives and had three wonderful sessions there. Elizabeth Butler, working on the Homeland Security archiving project, with Megan Gorskii, who is working on the Hurricane Katrina investigation, presented a session on managing e-records in the committee. This was useful for both federal and non-federal archivists. Of particular interest in that session was the report by Butler that about fifty percent of the staff advisory memos exist only in emails. Butler reported that she now processes the electronic records first, in order to make sense of the paper files.

Bob Spangler (NARA) gave a presentation on the status of ERA, and NARA exhibit staff provided a tour of the "Public Vaults."

Paul thanked Alan Haeberle, president of the CPR, Senator Hatch's archivist, and the LOC manuscripts department staff and their web capture team for the presentations. She also thanked the Center for Legislative Archives, Richard Hunt, Director, and staff for showing some of the legislative "treasures" to the group.

Paul noted that this day represented a great example of the kind of collaboration that is recommended in the Fourth Report.

Haas reported that before the election the House had 37 members who expected to leave, but the total grew after the election to 67 members. The Clerk's office has worked on outreach to the departing members on their papers issues, and also with the incoming members, giving them a copy of the records management manual and helping them as they begin their operations.

Haas noted that there had been several briefings, including six transition briefings for members. Those meetings were led by the chief administrative officer in the House, with Robin Reeder's participation. In addition, we held three briefings for majority and minority committee staff, to stress the importance of keeping and processing records. She stated that it has been quite an interesting process professionally handled on all sides, and that the Clerk's office has been really busy providing our committee staff with boxes and labels. She thanked the Archives for their assistance as well

Emily Reynolds thanked Karen Paul and Dick Baker for their influence and help with educating members and staff on an every day basis, and for working very early with the Senate's four retiring members, some of whom have made decisions with regard to the disposition of their collections.

Reynolds asked Paul to talk about her experience with the effect of committee changes on official records.

Paul said her office is in constant contact with the chief committee clerks. It's an interesting contrast with the House, as the Senate is more of a continuing body so the offices that are very busy now are those that are scheduled to move into new offices, such as the Energy Committee, or those whose chairs or ranking members have retired. Paul said she did not find that her office was experiencing any unusual challenges or stresses at this time.

What has been very interesting in regard to the committees is the number of people who have only electronic files and no paper files. This Congress is a turning point in regard to electronic records. Senate Committees on Foreign Relations, Banking, Commerce, and a whole sub-committee on Homeland Security have no paper. If the committee has an archivist, that person facilitates the archiving of the electronic records. If not, then Paul has to work with the systems person to devise a way to archive the electronic records. She feels that they are keeping up, but never know what is being lost. In fact, the Energy Committee is now talking about setting up a knowledge management system, or at least a prototype of one for the next Congress. The real challenge is keeping up with the transition to electronic record keeping systems.

With the members and their papers, we have a team approach that works very well that has been developed gradually over the years and has proven itself. It is helpful for members to know they have support from the fifteen of us on the team. In the offices of defeated

members, three of the members' papers are going to repositories, and three of the members are doing a fantastic job in archiving their records to private storage. Their offices have hired History Associates to compile an inventory, because one thing our office has stressed over the years is to not send a collection out without having an inventory, so you can designate access provisions. Offices have taken that to heart and are following through on compiling inventories.

Reynolds agreed that there is more professionalism now in regards to the disposition of members' papers. She cited the fact that Alan Haeberle and Elizabeth Butler are here from a member's office and a committee operation, and Nan Mosher, from Senator McConnell's office, shows dedication to the issue. She noted that Karen Paul has been such a driving force behind professionalizing this whole process, as well as the Senate office managers and administrative managers. This is another area where tremendous strides have been made in recent years.

Joe Cooper remarked that he was thunderstruck by how much of the material is not in paper anymore and felt this is really critical. He questioned how the electronic records were preserved, and if there is a task force between the National Archives and the House and Senate working on it, and asked for a briefing on the status.

Richard Hunt responded that it can most clearly be seen in the experiences of Elizabeth Butler and Megan Gorskii where they see records created more and more in digital form. When the committee staff begins to accumulate digital files and see the size of these files,

they call the Center, and we invite electronic records experts from Archives II to look at the committee's system and records formats. NARA's electronic records experts provide current guidance on preserving the records in particular formats compatible with what the Archives requires. At some future date, these records will be migrated into and preserved by the Electronic Records Archives. Eventually, the Electronic Records Archives will handle access and storage of data, but in the meantime, NARA will preserve data so it will be ready to transfer into ERA when it is up and running.

Cooper then asked if this service is available for people who want to give their papers to a congressional center or to a library as well.

Hunt responded that ERA is for official records only, although we meet with archivists responsible for members' papers and try to give them advice on preservation formats and transfer guidance. Hopefully this will benefit the home-state repository that eventually receives them.

Cooper asked if the ACSC has a committee working on this issue.

Hunt replied that one of the interesting ideas that came up at the last ACSC meeting was a suggestion that the association should consider forming a consortium to share the cost of storing, preserving, and providing access to electronic records; that way, the costs could be shared and distributed across centers, and a contractor could handle the electronic records for all.

Weinstein offered that if you want to see the dimensions of the problem, the next time you are at the Archives go through the Public Vaults exhibits to the place he calls the “Tower of Electronic Obsolescence,” because you see an absolutely overwhelming amount of obsolescent software and hardware.

Gherman remarked that this discussion follows his earlier sentiment that the most critical area is the preservation of digital information, which requires work in unison with university committees at all levels. This is the tip of the iceberg. In a short period of time we may not be able to get at all the basic scientific data our nation has created. It is an immense problem that we in society have to start thinking about. No one is coordinating efforts to address the crisis that we face.

Cooper said he knew that the Archives and congressional committees are aware of the challenges, but he hoped the Advisory Committee would get more involved with this problem. This is a crisis, he noted, and when the information is gone, it is gone forever.

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

Haas recognized Richard Hunt, the Director of the Center for Legislative Archives at the National Archives, for an update on the Center’s activities.

Hunt focused on activities in five areas, all emanating from the Fourth Report. He wanted to underscore Dick Baker's point that the Advisory Committee has transformed the Center for Legislative Archives over the last 15 years. It raised the bar higher every time we met and challenged us to do more, and then gave us the support to allow us to do more.

First, Hunt announced that on Friday, December 1, he received the signed records schedule from the Congressional Research Service at the Library of Congress, which now has agreed to send its permanent records to the Center. The committee has encouraged CRS to take this step for many years, so this accomplishment should be duly noted.

Second, one of the major accomplishments of the last few years was the move of the legislative "treasures" of the House and Senate. Some of the most valuable documents had been removed to a safe location, and in September they were returned to the new Legislative Treasure Vault. We have had visits from the newly-elected senators, and a special visit by the Speaker of the House and his staff. The responses of all visitors underscore that these tours raise awareness of the importance of the historical records of Congress.

Third, NARA's capture of the 109th Congressional websites is nearly complete. Over the last two weeks, House and Senate websites have been crawled and archived. An Internet archive firm has been contracted to conduct the crawl, the same firm that has done web-crawls for the national libraries of France, Australia, and Great Britain, and for LOC. The yield of the 109th Congressional website harvest is about 240 gigabytes of web content. After testing and quality control measures are completed, on January 17, 2007, the 109th Congressional web

harvest will be posted next to the 2004 Presidential term web harvest. With the 2004 and 2006 snapshots of committee websites, you can begin to see the evolution of the websites. The web harvest is a major accomplishment due to this committee's attention, and to a diplomatic query from Karen Paul after the 2004 Presidential web harvest.

Fourth, on December 14, the National Archives is providing a briefing at the request of legislative branch CIO's and IT managers on best practices in records management, the status of ERA, and the preservation of electronic records. Hunt would also like to see some kind of task force that begins to study the mosaic of electronic records systems throughout the legislative branch, including House and Senate official records and members' offices, to survey the landscape of electronic records on the Hill. Once the universe is defined, we can begin to address records issues more systematically.

Fifth, Hunt reported on the processing, review, declassification, redaction, and release of the 9/11 Commission records, which are scheduled to be open in January 2009. The records have been called the most complex and sensitive collection in National Archives custody. Understanding their historic value and how extraordinary it was for them to come to the National Archives and to be within the Center's custody, Hunt expressed his appreciation for the enormity of the tasks ahead of them. Hunt said he would have more to report in the future, but one of the central requirements for progress, in order to review and declassify the materials, is cooperation from the agencies with equity interest in these records. The Archivist, and Michael Kurtz, have taken the lead on seeking this cooperation from executive branch agencies.

Hunt said it is incumbent on him to report the progress on these endeavors to this committee, since the Center was created to develop special expertise on House and Senate records, access rules, and the intricacies of the legislative process. The 9/11 Commission records, however, present challenges in areas where the Center has not developed expertise. The Office of Records Services in Washington has been generous in sharing that expertise, but Hunt wanted the committee to be aware of the impact of the tasks associated with the commission's records on the Center's resources.

Last, Hunt expressed his appreciation to the committee for its guidance and support, and said a special thanks to the co-chairs, Karen Haas and Emily Reynolds for their leadership.

The Archivist added a few words to Hunt's report, which he called an excellent one. He said the Archives is moving ahead in fairly effective ways on the electronic issues. He thought we have the technical solutions to the issues that have been raised before the committee. The National Archives is working with a whole range of government research institutions, private research institutions, universities such as Stanford with their super computer laboratory, Georgia Tech, and the LOC. The Archives is building a system that will be both transferable and scaleable that will be usable to the full range of government if, and this is a big if, funding comes through. Without funding, there will be a crisis. It won't be a crisis if the funding is approved.

The Archivist reported that he had just returned from a meeting of one hundred-and-ninety nations' archivists in Curacao. The one thing that became clear to him was that if you wanted to draw the distinction between failed countries—countries that had virtually insuperable problems—and countries that were on the way to solving these problems, you could look at whether countries had an authentic, honest, legitimate records preservation and management procedures. The ones that were keeping their records effectively, and had kept their records effectively, no matter how poor, were on the road to a more responsible society. Unfortunately, there are a huge number of countries that do not recognize the critical importance of archives.

The Archivist noted that this committee is unique in a variety of ways. Our colleagues in the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Japan, and elsewhere haven't reached the point where they have recognized the need for such a committee. As Emily Reynolds and Karen Haas were saying, this is a professional, bi-partisan committee, and it is stunning because so much more work gets done on that basis. He said he would like to thank Haas and Reynolds one final time from the Archivist of the United States for the extraordinary leadership that these two professionals have given this committee.

Reynolds thanked the committee, and Haas thanked Hunt and his staff for their help and support for making this possible.

Guy Rocha announced that Senate Majority Leader-Elect Harry Reid met with a group from the SAA to receive the J. Franklin Jameson Archival Advocacy Award for, among other

things, his efforts at sustaining the NHPRC. The award had been announced at the SAA annual meeting in Washington, DC, earlier in the fall.

Weinstein concluded by saying that the NHPRC had a full page in his report on the State of the Archives. The Archives has not backed away one inch in terms of its desire to see the commission funded. We thank the staff of the NHPRC for the very difficult work they do under very difficult budgetary circumstances.

Haas entertained a motioned to adjourn. It was seconded and approved. The meeting adjourned at 11:23.