

McLean County

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DOCUMENT
of the
McLean County
Town Meeting

University High School

Normal, Illinois

March 27, 1976



A Call for Achievement in the Bicentennial Era

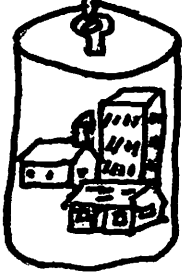
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BICENTENNIAL
ADMINISTRATION

THE WORLD'S LEADING AGRICULTURE COUNTY

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M^CLEAN
COUNTY



10/10/2007

March 27, 1976

McLean County Town Meeting

Program Schedule

9:00 - 9:30

Registration

9:30 - 10:45

Call town meeting into being

Welcome Gordon Ropp

9:45 - 10:15

Talk New World and the Bicentennial Era

10:15 - 12:30

The Challenge Workshops A-B and C-D

12:30 - 1:00

Lunch

1:00 - 1:30

Talk The New Human

1:30 - 3:30

Workshops in Session

- A. Economic Proposals
- B. Political Proposals
- C. Cultural Proposals
- D. Story, Song and Symbol

3:30 - 4:30

Plenary Session

- Workshops - A-B and C-D
- Reflections
- Toasting the Future
- Distribution of Reports to each participant

TOWN SONG

March 27, 1976

McLean County Town Meeting

PROGRESSIVE PIONEERS
Tune: "Yankee Doodle Dandy"

I was a prairie pioneer here,
Tiller of the McLean County soil
From David Davis, Jesse Fell and Abe
Came the first GOP

I'm a prairie poineer here
I go to college and drink beer
I work the sod and I believe in God,
State Farm's insured my career

I'll always be a pioneer here
County cooperation is my goal
Rapid growth in orderly fashion
Will help to make our county whole
In the 1800's we were born
To be a progressive county
and this we shall always be!

TOWN STORY

March 27, 1976

McLean County Town Meeting

OUR COUNTY

The rich farm land of the prairie came as a result of the glacier, making McLean County known as the "garden spot of the world." Coal was discovered which brought people here to mine it. This area also became a great railroad center resulting in growth. We owe much to Mr. Jesse Fell for the location of the first Normal school in Normal. Later the Methodists established Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington making this a fine cultural center. Some of our famous men were Adlai Stevenson, George Mecherle and David Davis. Noted establishments include Galley Eye Clinic, State Farm, Belch Candy Company, B-er Nuts, Funks Seed Company. Another development was a training center for circus performers. We were noted, too, for breeding and raising draft horses once so necessary to the farming interest. Such are some of the high lights of the past.

Because of rich soil, intelligence, research, hard work and ambition, the land still in agricultural use is among the most productive on earth and is the basis of the county's prosperity. Through the many types of contributions of a wealth of diversified groups, we have human and cultural advantages: money, executives, man and woman have furthered a Baby Fold, a special education, training school (Dr. Sands) a Victory Hall et. al. Public schools can always be in the forefront because of the colleges, their teachings and their actual help. The Bicentennial is but a focusing of a strong local movement to have cooperative and responsible government with the goal of meeting the needs.

We want to plan for the future with the intention of leaving this world in a better condition than when we entered the picture. We need higher standards for all areas of life, really striving for justice and liberty for all-- not only the lip service of the past. We will make the legend on our coins "In God we trust" part of all future planning. Our community will be one that any human living can line in and probably declare "This is my home."

Economic Challenges

March 27, 1976

McLean County Town Meeting

CHANGING TAX STRUCTURE

In the arena of economic commonality the following blocks (1) resistance to change in tax structure (2) lack of control of medical costs (3) relation of voting power and tax structure indicate the underlying contradiction of a change in tax structure would affect the life style of voter. This is illustrated by (1) failure of referendums (2) inequity in income taxes (3) burden of property taxes (4) rapid rising medical costs.

Guild 1 & 2

HESITANCY TO EXPLORE AND DECIDE

In the arena of consumption plans the following blocks (1) special interest groups blocking total development (2) money (3) lack of informed citizenry indicate the underlying contradiction of hesitancy to explore and decide. This is illustrated by (1) round of wage increases - inflation (2) tax failure (3) communication breakdown (4) Strikes.

Guild 1 & 2

PERPETUATION OF STATUS QUO

In the arena of common production the following blocks (1) tenure (2) strong top leadership organizes inefficiency indicate the underlying contradiction of perpetuation of status quo. This is illustrated by (1) railroad workers (2) tenure at education units--ISU, local districts (3) lack of concern for America (4) Chicago meat cutters (5) one-way truck haul loaded.

Guilds 1 & 2

UNFAIR ECONOMIC DISTRIBUTION

In the arena of economic commonality the following blocks (1) control of inflation (2) Equitable taxes (3) understanding cost of services indicate the underlying contradiction of unfair economic distribution. This is illustrated by (1) duplication (2) post office (3) school administrators (4) county law and justice building.

Guild 3

Economic Changes

March 27, 1976

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CONFLICT BETWEEN INTERDEPENDENCE AND SELF INTEREST

In the arena of Economic Commonality the following blocks (1) apathy (2) lack of government cooperation (3) economic feasibility indicate the underlying contradiction of conflict between interdependence and self interest. This is illustrated by (1) funding county recreation space (2) landfill (3) county courthouse (3) Jr. college - trade school question.

Guild 1

Political Challenges

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ACCEPTANCE OF SYSTEMS IN EXISTENCE

In the area of Corporate Justice, the following blocks, (1) Unconcerned citizens, indicate the underlying contradiction of acceptance of system in existence. This is illustrated by (1) Welfare programs, (2) Light sentences, (3) Failure to demand changes.

Guild 1 & 2

CO-OP ACTION PLAN

In the arena of Political Commonality, the following blocks, (1) Desire of property owners to have complete control of their land, (2) Economic inability to control, (3) Lack of co-operation, (4) Zoning & Sub Division Code requirements, indicate the underlying contradiction of lack of "Co-op Action Plan." This is illustrated by (1) Desire to keep land in production, (2) Inflation effecting all services costs (fees) go up or we need to reduce service, (3) Land use study committee, (4) Differences in local (city, county, township, state & some federal) codes, (5) Solid waste management, (6) There appears to be trust in politicians.

Guild 1 & 2

FREEDOM TO MARKET FOOD ON WORLD MARKET

In the arena of Political Commonality, the following blocks, (1) Attitude for lower food cost, (2) Union beverage, (3) Using food for political gain, indicate the underlying contradiction of freedom to market food on world market. This is illustrated by export embargo.

Guild 5 A

NON-CRIMINAL JUSTICE & HIGH INTEREST RATES

In the arena of Political Commonality, the following blocks, (1) Criminal Justice & Plea Bargaining, (2) Locally sponsored projects, indicate the underlying contradiction of non-criminal justice and high interest rates. This is illustrated by using crime rates and less local development.

Guild 5

Cultural Challenges

March 27, 1976

McLean County Town Meeting

LACK OF HUMAN CONCERN - APATHY

In the arena of the cultural-human involvement, the following blocks,
(1) Inertia - Lack of common recognition of problems, indicate the underlying contradiction of public apathy because there's no pinch. This is illustrated by the last school bond issue and the taxation issues.

Guild 4

PUBLIC CONCERN AND COOPERATION

In the arena of cultural, the following blocks, (1) Priorities of the people, (2) Size of county, (3) Unequitable financing, indicate the underlying contradiction of lack of public concern & cooperation. This is illustrated by defeat of school bond issues, failure of voter turn-out, overlapping medical facilities & site of amtrack station.

Guild 2

ECONOMIC OVER EMPHASIS OVER FAMILY & COMMUNITY

In the arena of cultural - communal, the following blocks, (1) Apathy, (2) Lack of time to devote to family & community, (3) Lack of parental guidance, indicate the underlying contradiction of indifference- over-emphasis on monetary gain rather than devoting more time to community & family betterment. This is illustrated by (1) Lack of public facilities for recreation for elderly & youth, (2) Lack of cooperation between churches, clubs, etc.

Guild 1 & 2

Proposals

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ENHANCEMENT OF HUMAN DIGNITY

We the citizens of McLean County, in order to make a better world propose the enhancement of human dignity through the involvement of minority races. We would propose to accomplish this through the involvement of church leaders, school officials, elected officials and service organizations.

Guilds 1 & 2

DECREASE CRIME AND EDUCATE PUBLIC

We the citizens of McLean County, in order to decrease crime and educate public propose public knowledge of correctional institutions through visual and verbal display of jail conditions, bodily effects by drugs, and consequences experienced by felons.

Guilds 1 & 2

PROVIDING BETTER PLACE TO LIVE BY EFFECTIVE DECISIONS

We the citizens of McLean County, in order to provide a better place to live by effective decisions propose to have community meetings to involve people through inviting neighbors to home, using free public media, keep meetings brief, informing people beforehand on what is to be discussed.

Guild 1 & 2

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

We the citizens of McLean County, in order to have participatory democracy and dispense information to all ages, propose to strive for 100% participation through a multiple of activities: (1) Touring city facilities (2) Children's day in court - States Attorney's office (3) Increased use of local media for information (4) Youth Government days.

Guilds 1 & 2

HOLD MEETING ON COMMUNITY PROBLEMS

We the citizens of McLean County, in order to make the county a more equitable place to live in peace and prosperity propose to hold a meeting about county problem areas through identifying problems, creating an interest through a demonstrated need at this meeting.

Guilds 1 & 2

PROPOSALS

March 27, 1976

McLean County Town Meeting

PROPERLY ORGANIZED PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

We the citizens of McLean County, in order to implement more properly organized programs, propose to get the public informed and acting through (1) An initial committee to research proposal, (2) Media involvement--organizations and club promotion, (3) General meeting of public, (4) Action committees implementing program.

Guild 1 & 2

PROBLEMS

March 27, 1976

Children's Town Meeting

CULTURAL

1. Balance P.E. with music & art.
2. School hour too long.
3. Movies are not family type.
4. Need to educate our retarded people.
5. People are too unsociable & afraid to get involved.

ECONOMIC

1. Support transportation so it can survive.
2. Concern over losing land to superhighway.
3. Need to keep cost of what we buy & what we sell in balance.
4. Gas Shortage.
5. We need more doctors.
6. Doctors are too expensive.
7. Air and water pollution should be stopped.
8. Littering should be stopped
9. We don't have enough money.
10. We need to do more native oil exploration.

POLITICAL

1. We have too big a government.
2. People do not have enough control over their government.
3. People die from smoking.
4. Schools should not be redistricted.
5. We are following the same course of other countries that have fallen.
6. We need to increase our military protection.

SOLUTIONS

March 27, 1976

Children's Town Meeting

CULTURAL

1. Need Both
2. School: 10:00 - 2:00
3. Don't go to movies, therefore not make any money-take out strippers
4. More special education teachers
5. Form clubs they're interested in

ECONOMIC

1. None
2. No more super highways-repair old ones
3. Use own resources
4. Cut down gas, substitute for gas, encourage walking
5. Educate, build more medical schools
6. More doctors-less expensive
7. Get away from motors, filter chimney, purify smoke stacks
8. More trash cans
9. Print more money, work hard to earn more
10. More independent from other countries

POLITICAL

1. Too many people in government who are not earning their pay
2. Vot, bring government back to more local level
3. People who caused need for redistricting should be bused
4. Don't follow them, make a new path
5. Don't sell airplanes and guns to other countries because they copy it and then betray us.

STAFF AND PARTICIPATES

March 27, 1976

Children's Town Meeting

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March 27, 1976

McLean County Town Meeting

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March 27, 1976

McLean County Town Meeting

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

March 27, 1976

MCLEAN COUNTY TOWN MEETING

STEERING COMMITTEE

City of Bloomington

Town of Normal

Association of Commerce and Industry of McLean County

Bloomington Kiwanis Club

Rural Government League

McLean County Farm Bureau

McLean County Service Company

CONTRIBUTORS

Owens-Corning Fiberglass

Daily Pantagraph

J. C. Penney

Bloomington Federal Savings and Loan Association

Portable Elevator

McLean County Bank

Civic Women's Club

Bank of Illinois

Peoples Bank of Lexington

Corn Belt Bank

First National Bank of Normal

Funk Seeds International

Production Credit Association

State Farm Insurance

City of Lexington

Peoples Bank of Bloomington

Country Companies

Illinois Farm Bureau

FS Services

Laesch Dairy

Pepsi-Cola

Colonel Sanders Kentucky Fried Chicken

MacDonalds

Famous Recipe

Casey Jones Distributing

Illinois Power Company

Union Insurance Company

Master of Ceremonies-Gordon Ropp

Welcome-A. W. Tompkins, Sr.

Gerald G. Gerling
Sales Representative



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