

INDIANA HISTORY TO BE
STATE WORKSHOP TOPIC

For Immediate Release
December 27, 1990



CONTACT: Kathy W. Funke
News and Information Services
812/465-7050

Some 200 Indiana history teachers are enrolled in "Indiana and the New Nation, 1776-1876," a statewide workshop on making use of state and local history in the school curriculum that will be held Saturday, January 26, in Holiday Inn Union Station, Indianapolis. It will be one of the first programs commemorating Indiana's 175th anniversary.

The featured speaker will be Dr. James Wind, program director of the Religious Division of The Lilly Endowment. He is the author of *Places of Worship*, a history of churches that was included in the *Nearby History* series published by American Association of State and Local History of Nashville, Tennessee. Dr. Wind will discuss how teaching religious history can enhance the school curriculum.

The workshop will be sponsored by Historic Southern Indiana Project, headquartered at the University of Southern Indiana, in cooperation with the Indiana Department of Education. The event originally was expected to attract about 100 participants, but 600 applications flooded in and organizers increased accommodations, accepting the first applicants received from all sections of the state in order to gain the widest participation.

Major funding for the workshop comes from a \$272,000 grant HSI received from the Education Division of the National Endowment for the Humanities, with financial assistance approved by IDE, Indiana Humanities Council, Indiana Council for the Social Studies, Indiana Historical Society, and Indiana Historical Bureau in order to accommodate the doubled participation.

The meeting is an outgrowth of HSI's "Indiana and the New Nation" project, a two-year intensive study of southern Indiana history for which the NEH grant originally was approved. Thirty teachers were selected from across Indiana to participate. The

(more)

statewide meeting will expand on the number of Hoosier educators provided with information on using local resources and Indiana history to teach larger themes in American and world history. The 30 teachers who completed the two-year HSI project will serve as leaders for the workshop, which is designed to appeal to social studies teachers at all grade levels.

Dr. Darrel E. Bigham, USI professor of history, is director of HSI, an alliance of historic sites, agencies, and individuals which seeks to identify, preserve, develop, and promote the historical, natural, and recreational resources of southern Indiana. The HSI region generally is defined as the lower Ohio and Wabash valleys, with Interstate 64 forming its backbone; counties crossed by U.S. 50 represent the northern boundary.

The University of Southern Indiana led the effort to organize HSI as part of its stated mission of assisting southern Indiana communities with economic development. For further information on the January workshop, contact workshop coordinator Leigh Ann Chamness, Historic Southern Indiana Project, University of Southern Indiana, 8600 University Boulevard, Evansville, IN 47712, telephone 812/465-7014.