

To: Organ Committee, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary
From: E.Meyer, Consultant for Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary
RE: Background Information
Date: February 11, 1989

Plans for the proposed new pipe organ for the chapel had been underway and reached a point whereby firm bids from several reputable organ builders had been reviewed. One of four builders had been selected as the builder of the seminary chapel organ. In fall of 1986, therefore, the board of WLS considered the project but felt it necessary to postpone the matter.

The bids and delivery dates, considered at that time, are presented below. The bid prices were for the proposed 16-stop organ.

- 1) Casavant Freres. Proposed delivery was March, 1988.
Bid was 149,500
- 2) Dobson. Proposed delivery was May or June, 1988.
Bid was 146,000
- 3) Schlicker Proposed delivery was January, 1989.
Bid was 155,062.
- 4) Taylor & Boody Proposed delivery was fall, 1992.
Bid was 175,000

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In October, 1988, WLS decided to enter into a contract with the organ builder of its choice--Dobson. Quite naturally a price increase over the 1986 quotation was expected. When, however, the newly quoted price was \$208,000 it was decided to begin communications with other builders in the hope that a high quality instrument was possible at a more reasonable price. For that reason, the consultant was asked to undertake a study-trip to several builders. This venture, done in early January of this year, proved valuable. The results of this work will become apparent in the discussion of the next pages.

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It is highly recommended that WLS select the organbuilder of its first choice, with a second and third in the event final discussion cannot be completed with the first choice builder, and that a contract be signed before March 1.