

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Stephen Schnorf

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Illinois Statecraft – Jim Edgar Oral History project

Interview # ISG-A-L-2010-018

Stephen Schnorf, Governor Jim Edgar's (1991-1999) director of CMS [Central Management Services] (1991-1994), policy director (1994-1997), and budget chief (1997-1998), was interviewed on the dates listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Illinois Statecraft – Jim Edgar* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: February 23, 2010 Location: ALPL, Springfield, IL

Date: TBD Location: ALPL, Springfield, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Mike Czaplicki, ALPL

Transcription by: Kay Smith, ALPL volunteer

Edited by: Roberta Volkmann & Jan Culp, ALPL volunteers

Total Pages: 47 pgs Total Time: 2:44 / 2.72 hrs

Session 1: Schnorf's early life through 1990 gubernatorial campaign

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The interviews are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in
Springfield, Illinois.

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Abstract

Stephen Schnorf, *Illinois Statecraft*, ISG-A-L-2010-018

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Stephen Schnorf was born on November 18, 1944 in Charleston, Illinois. His family had deep roots in Coles and Cumberland Counties, arriving in the area shortly before the Civil War. Steve grew up in Charleston, on the southwest side of town. He was educated at Eastern Illinois University's lab school and Eastern Illinois University. His younger brother was a friend and classmate of Jim Edgar's, although Steve did not know Edgar especially well at this point. Steve majored in history at Eastern and graduated in 1966. After working as a teacher for several years, Steve returned to graduate school, earning his MS in education in 1973. That was also the year he married Jane Elmore. Following a series of jobs with non-profits focusing on mental health and work on all of Edgar's campaigns for state representative, Steve joined Secretary of State Edgar's office in 1981 as the director of the senior citizens division.

Steve worked with Edgar for the next seventeen years. He served as then-Secretary Edgar's director of Drivers services from 1983 to 1991. After winning the 1990 gubernatorial race, Edgar named Schnorf director of CMS [Central Management Services]. Schnorf became Edgar's policy director in 1994 and served in this role until he was named budget director in 1997. He continued in this position through Gov. George Ryan's administration. Steve passed away on February 27, 2017.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Chicago, Illinois; Congress Expressway; Chicago parishes; Ronald Reagan; Governor Jim Edgar; William J. Scott; Jim Thompson; Samuel K. Skinner; Fred Hampton; Eugene Sawyer; Harold Washington; Erhard Chorle; Lutrelle "Lu" Palmer; Eddie Read; Black Contractors United; William Ghesquiere; Mike Belletire; Paula Wolff; Janis Cellini; Elena Kezelis; Mike Lawrence; Howard Peters; Tim Degnan; Daniel Rostenkowski; Robert H. Michel; Alan Dixon; Charles Percy; David Mosen; Lake Calumet Airport; Richard Luft; Aldo DeAngelis; Chicago machine politics; Chicago airports; 1990 gubernatorial campaign; chief counsel for Gov. Edgar; Illinois environmental politics; Hospital Assessment Program; pinstripe patronage; administrative staff; Springfield politics;

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