

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with David Bourland

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
*Illinois Statecraft – Gov. Thompson* Oral History project

Interview # IST-A-L-2014-015

David Bourland, curator of the Illinois state executive mansion for many years, and a close friend of Governor Jim Thompson, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Illinois Statecraft – Gov. Thompson* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: May 29, 2014      Location: Illinois State Executive Mansion, Springfield, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Mark R. DePue, Director of Oral History

Transcription by: \_\_\_\_\_

Edited by: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_      Total Time: 2:12 / 2.2 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on June 25, 2014.

The interview is archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

Transcript  
being processed

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# Abstract

## David Bourland, *Illinois Statecraft*, IST-A-L-2014-015

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** David Bourland was born in March, 1953 in Springfield, Illinois, and grew up in the John Hay Homes project just blocks from the state capitol. He attended Springfield public schools, and graduated from Lanphier High School in 1971. By 1972 he had enlisted in the United States Air Force, receiving training in avionics. He served in various locations in the United States, and in 1973 was stationed at Korat Air Force Base in Thailand. By 1975 he was back in the United States, stationed at Chanute Air Force Base in Illinois. He was discharged the following year, and took advantage of the G.I. Bill by attending classes at Lincoln Land College and later at Sangamon State University. In 1976 he began working at his step-father's store, Winchester Framing Company, purchasing the business in 1980.

Bourland first met Jim Thompson in 1976 while Thompson was running for governor for the first time. The two immediately formed a friendship based on their shared passion for art and antiques. Shortly after Thompson was elected, he asked Bourland over to the executive mansion, where the two toured the building and jointly assessed the art and furnishings. During the years that followed, Governor Thompson frequently asked Bourland for advice, and often brought him along as the Governor visited new venues for art and architecture. Those items the two acquired were typically paid for by the Executive Mansion Association. In 1983 Bourland was hired to work at the mansion as the curator, and he continued to work closely with the governor on their shared passion. In 1988 Bourland moved to Chicago to assist Thompson on furnishing the new State of Illinois Building, a period of time when Bourland's duties were steadily increasing, including accompanying Thompson on several foreign trips.

During the Jim Edgar administration Bourland worked for Secretary of State George Ryan, and when Ryan became Governor in January, 1999 Bourland once again became the mansion curator. He was still in this position at the time of this interview in 2014, having seen the mansion go through a succession of governors, and many tough fiscal years for Illinois.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Illinois state executive mansion; Gov. Jim Thompson; Executive Mansion Foundation; Gov. Jim Edgar; Gov. George Ryan; Gov. Rod Blagojevich; Du Quoin state fairgrounds; state of Illinois building – Chicago (now the James R. Thompson Center); antique collection; Winchester Framing Company

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