

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Senator Philip J. Rock  
Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
*Illinois Statecraft* Oral History project  
Interview # ISL-A-L-2010-041

Senator Philip J. (Phil) Rock, an Illinois state Senator from 1971-1993, and the Senate President from 1979-1993, 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: Sept. 17, 2010 Location: Sen. Rock's law office (Rock & Fusco) in Chicago

Date: Nov. 29, 2010 Location: Sen. Rock's law office (Rock & Fusco) in Chicago

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Mark R. DePue, Director of Oral History, ALPL

Transcription by: Audio Transcription Center

Edited by: Mike Czaplicki, ALPL; Rozanne Flatt, ALPL Volunteer

Total Pages: 56 pgs Total Time: 0:45 + 1:14 / 0.75 + 1.23 = 1.98 hrs

Session 1: Sen. Rock's associations with Secretary of State Jim Edgar

Session 2: Sen. Rock's associations with Governor Jim Edgar, 1991-1993

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on Feb 9, 2011.

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

# Abstract

Philip J. Rock, *Illinois Statecraft*, ISL-A-L-2010-041

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Philip J. 'Phil' Rock was born on May 4th, 1937 in Chicago, and grew up in the city, earning a law degree from Loyola University in 1964. In 1970 he was elected to the Illinois State Senate from the 8th District in Chicago, and served in that body until his retirement from politics in January, 1993. From 1979 to 1993 he was the Senate's top Democrat and Senate President. This interview focuses on Senator Rock's associations with Jim Edgar, first while Edgar served for a short time in the House of Representatives, then as he served as Governor Jim Thompson's legislative liaison in 1979-1980, then as the Secretary of State from 1981-1991. The second interview session covers Edgar's years as governor from 1991 through 1998, but especially the first legislative session of 1991-1993. Rock discusses the challenges the state faced in 1991 and 1992 with a massive budget deficit, and the nature of the negotiations to craft a budget in the legislature, and relations with the Edgar administration. He also shares his views on the other key legislative leaders of that time, including James 'Pate' Philip, Mike Madigan and Lee Daniels.

Ed Wojcicki conducted an extensive series of twenty-eight interviews with Senator Rock from 2004 to 2010. These were used for a book to be published by SIU Press in 2011, and will also be available at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. Senator Rock passed away on January 29, 2016.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Senator Phil Rock; Illinois state Senate, 1991-1992; Governor Jim Edgar; 1991 Illinois state budget crisis; Governor Jim Thompson; Kirk Dillard; Mike Lawrence; Joan Walters; Senator James 'Pate' Philip; Speaker of the House Mike Madigan; Republican Minority Leader Lee Daniels; Brenda Edgar;

**Note to the Reader:** Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

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