

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Charles P. Carey

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Agriculture in Illinois Oral History project

Interview # AIS-V-L-2010-016

Charles P. Carey, the former Chairman for the Chicago Board of Trade and Vice Chair for the CME Group, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Illinois Statecraft* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Apr 8, 2010 Location: Carey's office in the Board of Trade Bldg in Chicago

Date: Apr 9, 2010 Location: The agriculture trading floor in the Board of Trade Bldg

Interview Format: Digital video

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

Technical Support (cameraman, etc): Norman Ibarra, IL Information Service

Transcription by: Susan Burke, ALPL volunteer

Edited by: Peter Ellertson & Rozanne Flatt, ALPL volunteers

Total Pages: 64 pgs Total Time: 2hrs + 1hr + 12min / 2.0 + 1.0 + 0.2 = 3hr 12min / 3.2 hrs.

Session 1 & 2: Carey's early life and career with Chicago Board of Trade

Session 3: Walk & Talk interview on the floor of agriculture pit at the CBOT

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on August 5, 2011

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

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Abstract

Charles P. Carey, *Agriculture in Illinois*, AIS-V-L-2010-016

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Charles P. (Charlie) Carey was born on September 1st, 1953 in Chicago, Illinois, and grew up in Chicago and its western suburbs. The Carey family had a long tradition in the Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT), as both Charlie's grandfather and father had seats in the institution, and were respected traders in agricultural commodities. Charlie grew up in this tradition, but upon graduation from high school in 1971 he was uncertain of his future. Carey attended Western Illinois University, and in 1976 began working at the Mid-American Exchange in Chicago, which also traded in grain commodities, but on a much smaller scale than the CBOT. Carey's father died unexpectedly in 1977, and in 1978 Charlie took over his father's seat on the CBOT. In 2003 he became Chairman of the CBOT, and in 2007, when the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) and the CBOT merged, he was selected as Vice Chair of the CME Group.

Mr. Carey related his family's story, and also gave a layman's explanation of the purpose of the CBOT and a thumbnail sketch of the intricacies of commodities trading, particularly grains. He discussed commodity futures contracts, futures options, and the dynamics of the trading floor, where traders traditionally use the 'open outcry' method of trading. Carey discussed the interrelated nature of the various markets, and the innumerable factors that can affect the price of commodities, stressing that speculators play a valuable service in determining a price, but that they should not be blamed for price swings. He also discussed the evolution of the CBOT, including the adoption of electronic trading, and the emergence of financials and derivatives as trading instruments. The interview concludes with filming on the floor of the grain commodities pit at the Board of Trade.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT); Chicago Mercantile Exchange; CME Group; Charles P. Carey, Chairman of the Chicago Board of Trade; commodity exchanges; open outcry pit trading; commodities speculation - determining commodity prices; grain futures contracts; futures options; market liquidity; Mid-American Exchange; variables that impact commodity prices

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