

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with John Shaw

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
*Education is Key--Civics Education* Oral History project

Interview # ECE-A-L-2019-085

John Shaw, a congressional reporter and the executive director of the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Education is Key--Civics Education* Oral History project.

Date: Nov. 4, 2019 Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library (phone interview)

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue/ALPL volunteer

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

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

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Time: 1:25 / 1.42 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on February 3, 2020.

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

Interview being  
processed

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## Abstract

### John Shaw, Education is Key, ECE-A-L-2019-085

**Biographical Information Overview:** John Shaw was born in Peoria, Illinois in 1957. He grew up in Peoria and graduated from Peoria Spalding, an all-boys school. He then went to Knox College, majoring in Political Science. John received a Governor's Fellowship, allowing him to rotate through state government. He also received a Rotary Fellowship, which allowed him to earn his MA degree from the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia. Later, he attended Johns Hopkins University, majoring in Advanced International Studies. John gained work experience through a work study with the European Union, as well as working with the *Wall Street Journal* in Europe, *Market News*, and the *Washington Diplomat*. In all, John spent twenty-six years as a congressional reporter. In 2017, he became the executive director of the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute. John has written several books on Richard Lugar, John Kennedy as Senator, and the Kennedy-Eisenhower Presidential Transition.

Shaw discusses civics education from the perspective of a former congressional reporter. He also reflects on the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute's involvement with civics education training through the McCormick Foundation, as well as their work on effective town halls, the promotion of statesmanship, and renewing Illinois. Shaw also examined the challenges of journalism and the impact of national politics on it over the past sixty years.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Congressional Reporting; Richard Lugar; Sen. John Kennedy; Eisenhower-Kennedy transition; Paul Simon Public Policy Institute; Civics Education; journalism; News Literacy

**notes 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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