

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Ray Stroh

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Illinois Statecraft – Pension Crisis Oral History project

Interview # ISC-A-L-2018-005

Raymond (Ray) Stroh, a personnel manager for the state of Illinois for several decades, 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: April 4, 2018 Location: Ray Stroh home in Springfield, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

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

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

**Transcript
being processed**

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 2:20 / 2.33 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on May 16, 2018.

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

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Abstract

Ray Stroh, *Illinois Statecraft – Pension Crisis*, ISC-A-L-2018-005

Biographical Information/Overview of Interview: Raymond ‘Ray’ Stroh was born on August 13th, 1942 in Bloomington, Illinois, and grew up in nearby Sibley, Illinois, where his father worked at a pipeline pump station for Shell Oil. In 1966 Ray graduated from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, married Peggy Whitacre, and obtained a job with the Department of Mental Health in Springfield. Specifically, he was a position classifier. Ray moved up quickly in the personnel management field, serving as personnel manager at McFarland Mental Health Center, then in September 1968 to Manteno State Hospital, the largest mental health facility in the state. By that time, Ray was working in personnel management, directly reporting to the Illinois Department of Personnel. The Illinois State Personnel Code, enacted in 1955, governed most personnel hiring, discipline, firing, etc. for those working as personnel managers.

In November 1969 Ray was appointed as the personnel manager for the Department of Law Enforcement, and from July 1975 to 1981 as personnel manager at the Department of Revenue. With the creation of the Department of Central Management Services, Ray spent the rest of his state career working there as a Senior Public Service Administrator. He started by overseeing personnel transactions and position classifications for twenty state agencies, but over time his scope of responsibility grew to encompass all agencies, boards and commissions under the governor. During the course of Ray’s discussion of his career in personnel management, he discussed patronage, hiring procedures, union relations, collective bargaining and union negotiations, merit-based hiring, and pension issues. These issues were explored in depth. Stroh retired in December 2000.

Subject Headings/Key Words: personnel management in Illinois state government; McFarland Mental Health Center, Springfield, IL; Manteno State Hospital; Central Management Services; patronage in Illinois; public sector union bargaining; meet and confer; collective bargaining; Illinois State Personnel Code of 1955; IL Department of Law Enforcement; IL Department of Revenue

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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