

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Robert S. Pinkerton

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

Interview # ISC-A-L-2016-001

Robert S. Pinkerton, Past President of the Illinois Retired Teachers' Association (IRTA), was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *History of the Five State Pension Systems* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Tuesday, January 12, 2016; Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Interview Format: Digital Audio

Interviewer: John Perkins, ALPL Volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:23 / 1.38 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on March 2, 2016.

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

Transcript
being processed

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Abstract

Robert S. Pinkerton, *Pension Crisis in Illinois*, ISC-A-L-2016-001

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Robert Pinkerton is the past President of the Illinois Retired Teachers' Association (IRTA). Mr. Pinkerton was born in June, 1941 in Roodhouse, Illinois and currently lives in Jacksonville, Illinois. He grew up in Whitehall and spent his professional career in K-12 public education in the Whitehall, Roodhouse area of Illinois. He received his undergraduate degree from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE), and graduate degrees from the University of Illinois Springfield (UIS). He spent thirty years as a teacher and Principal in the North Green Unit District # 3 at Whitehall/Roodhouse, Illinois. He retired from these positions in 1994 through the Teacher Retirement System's 5+5 Program. Mr. Pinkerton has had twenty-two years of active service in the Illinois Retired Teachers Association (IRTA). He served this organization as Region 14 Legislative Chair, State Legislative Chair, Area 4 representative, IRTA vice-President, IRTA President and current Past President.

This interview covers Mr. Pinkerton's professional career as a public school educator in Illinois, both as a teacher and administrator. These experiences reflect and represent the experiences of most public school educators in Illinois who are enrolled in the state's Teacher Retirement System. This interview also highlights Mr. Pinkerton's extensive experience through several important roles in the Illinois Retired Teacher Association that adds another perspective on the current conditions of the state's pension systems. His legislative positions with IRTA placed him in direct contact with the development of pension related legislation, in particular, Senate Bill 1 of 2013, an action that was eventually declared to be unconstitutional by the Illinois Supreme Court in 2015. Chicago is not a part of the IRTA.

Subject Headings/Key Words: public school teacher and administrator; lobby for Illinois Retired Teachers' Association (IRTA), region 14; IRTA area representative; Vice President, President and Past President of IRTA; Illinois Senate Bill 2404 of 2013; We are One-Illinois; Cost of Living Allowance and Illinois pensions, differences with Teacher Retirement System Executive Directors; Tier 1 vs. Tier 2 Illinois state employees; Illinois Senate Bill 1 of 2013, IL Supreme Court ruling on Senate Bill 1; cost shifting; defined benefits/defined contributions

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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