

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Edward M. Burke

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

Interview # IS-A-L-2018-037

Edward M. Burke, a police officer who worked on the convention floor during the 1968 Democratic Convention in Chicago, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Illinois Statecraft-General Interest* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Tuesday, Jun 26, 2018 Location: Klafter & Burke Law office, Chicago, IL

Interview Format: Digital video

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

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Transcript
being processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:04 / 1.07 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on July 18, 2018.

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

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Abstract

Edward Burke, *Illinois Statecraft*, IS-A-L-2018-037

Biographical Information/Overview of Interview: Edward M. Burke was born on December 29, 1943 in Chicago, Illinois, and grew up on the south side of Chicago. He attended high school at the Quigley Preparatory Seminary, and college at DePaul University, graduating in 1965. By 1968 he was serving as a Chicago police officer; he was also enrolled in De Paul University's College of Law. His father, Joseph P. Burke, was a Chicago Alderman at the time.

During the 1968 Democratic Convention, Ed worked the day shift on the convention floor at the Stockyards International Amphitheater. He discusses that experience in depth, including an incident where he informed Mayor Richard J. Daley about an altercation involving CBS reporter Dan Rather and a Chicago police officer, which resulted in Rather being detained by the police. He also observed an incident where Senator Abraham Ribicoff of Connecticut made an inflammatory statement claiming the Chicago police were using "*gestapo tactics in the streets of Chicago*," which elicited a heated response from the mayor and others. Burke also discussed the aftermath of the convention and riots, including the Chicago Seven (seven protesters charged with conspiracy and crossing state lines to incite a riot), and the "Rights in Conflict" report which labeled the violence in the streets of Chicago as a "police riot." The report was also known as the Walker Report after lawyer Dan Walker, who later became the governor of Illinois.

Subject Headings/Key Words: 1968 Democratic Convention in Chicago; Mayor Richard J. Daley; police perspective of the 1968 Democratic Convention; Stockyards International Amphitheater; Senator Abraham Ribicoff; student protesters at Democratic Convention; Chicago Seven; "Rights in Conflict" report;

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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