

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Carter Hendren

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

Interview # ISG-A-L-2009-013

Carter Hendren, campaign manager for Jim Edgar during his run in 1982 for Secretary of State and 1990 for the governorship, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Illinois Statecraft – Jim Edgar* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: April 28, 2009 Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Date: May 7, 2009 Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Interview Format: Digital audio

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

Transcription by: Audio Transcription Center, Boston, MA

Edited by: Mike Czaplicki, Jim Edgar Oral History project editor, and Rozanne Flatt,
ALPL Volunteer

Total Pages: 79 pages Total Time: 1 hr 54 min + 1 hr 57 min / 1.9 + 1.95= 3.85 hrs

Session 1: Early career through Jim Edgar campaign of 1982 and Charles Percy 1984

Session 2: Jim Edgar's 1990 gubernatorial campaign

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on 02/02/2010.

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

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Abstract

Carter Hendren, *Illinois Statecraft*, ISG-A-L-2009-013

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Carter Hendren was born on July 13, 1952 in Champaign and grew up in nearby Albion, Illinois. Hendren became interested in politics at an early age, helping his father run for a seat in the 1970 Illinois Constitutional Convention. He majored in Political Science while at Eastern Illinois University, where he graduated in 1970. In 1974 he became involved in Jim Edgar's campaign for state legislator, at a time when Edgar was largely unknown. After that failed bid, Carter stayed in close contact with Edgar, and ran Edgar's campaign for the Secretary of State in 1982, as well as Edgar's run for governor in 1990. Both were tough and close campaigns for Edgar. In 1984, Hendren served as campaign manager for Senator Charles Percy, running for reelection as a Republican against Paul Simon. Percy lost his bid for reelection.

From 1985 to 1987 he worked for the GOP Action Committee (GOPAC), during which time he shuttled back and forth between Springfield, IL and Washington, D.C. GOPAC was founded by Governor Pierre S. 'Pete' duPont of Delaware before Representative Newt Gingrich of Georgia took the reigns. Hendren returned to serve as the Chief of Staff for Illinois State Senate Minority Leader James 'Pate' Philip (1987-2003), taking a hiatus to run Edgar's successful 1990 election campaign, first against conservative Steven Baer in the Republican primary, then against the Attorney General, Neil Hartigan. It was a classic political contest, going down to the wire.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Governor Jim Edgar; Governor Jim Thompson; James 'Pate' Philip; Senator Charles H. Percy; Neil Hartigan; GOPAC (GOP Action Committee); Newt Gingrich; 1970 Illinois Constitutional Convention; George Ryan; Jerry Cosentino; Max Coffey; Paul Simon; Mike Lawrence; Brenda Edgar; Bob Kustra; Steven Baer

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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