

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with George Fleischli

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

Interview # ISG-A-L-2010-003

George Fleischli, who worked for Jim Edgar during his tenure as Illinois Secretary of State and as an Executive Assistant when Edgar was Governor, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Illinois Statecraft* Oral History project.

Interview date & location:

Date: Jan 27, 2010 Location: Fleischli's business office in Springfield

Interview Format: Digital audio

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

Transcription by: Tape Transcription Center

Edited by: Mike Czaplicki & Rozanne Flatt, ALPL Volunteers

Total Pages: 35 Total Time: 1:30 / 1.5 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on 9/23/2010.

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

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Abstract

George Fleischli, *Illinois Statecraft*, ISG-A-L-2010-003

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: George Fleischli was born on February 2, 1944 in Springfield, Illinois, and grew up in Springfield attending Cathedral Grade School and Griffin High School, both parochial schools. Following graduation, he attended Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois, where he majored in Education and English and played football until a knee injury sidelined him. Upon graduation, he taught in Peoria for a year and then moved back to Springfield, where he taught English and coached football at Griffin High School. During this time, he made an unsuccessful run for Springfield Street Commissioner. In 1979, he went to work for the Department of Conservation as the Assistant Director of the Young Adult Conservation Corps.

When Jim Edgar was appointed by Governor Thompson to be Secretary of State, Fleischli was selected as the Director of Physical Services, where he was responsible for all of the Secretary of State buildings and grounds, including the Capitol Complex in Springfield. During the next several years, Fleischli oversaw the renovation of both the interior and exterior of the Capitol building, as well as numerous other projects. It was also during his tenure that the Capitol building was the scene of a protracted struggle between pro- and anti-Equal Rights Amendment forces. In 1991, Fleischli joined newly elected Governor Edgar in his administration. For the next four years, he served as an Executive Assistant, with oversight over the Capitol Development Board, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Conservation, the Department of Transportation, the Illinois Toll Authority, and the Illinois Racing Board. He played a significant role in the administration during the Great Flood of 1993, in the acquisition of Site M (Jim Edgar Panther Creek), and in the creation of the Department of Natural Resources. He retired from public service in 1995.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Griffin High School; Director of Physical Services, IL Secretary of State Office; Jim Edgar as governor; Illinois Capitol building renovation; Equal Rights Amendment struggle in Illinois; Illinois Department of Natural Resources; Site M (Jim Edgar Panther Creek); Flood of 1993; Director of Dept. of Transportation Kirk Brown; Director of Dept. of Conservation Brent Manning; Budget Director Joan Walters; Lt. Governor Bob Kustra

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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