

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Robert Mandeville

Redacted Interview

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

Interview # IST-A-L-2013-103

Robert Mandeville, budget director under Gov. Jim Thompson, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Illinois Statecraft – Jim Thompson Oral History project*.

Interview date & location:

Dates: December 6 & 12, 2013; February 10-11 & 20, 2014

Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Mike Czaplicki, ALPLM project historian

Transcription by: Audio Transcription Center, Boston, MA

Edited by: Dr. Mike Czaplicki, Thompson Project contract employee

Total Pages: 262 pgs Total Time: 2:31 + 2:13 + 2:09 + 3:13 + 3:28 / 2.51 + 2.22 + 2.13 + 3.22 + 3.47 = 13.55 hrs

Session 1: From Truck Farming to NASA: Mandeville's Youth and Early Career

Session 2: Ogilvie's Budget Bureau and the Deputy Comptroller Years

Session 3: The 1976 Transition and Thompson Administration Personalities

Session 4: The Budget Process under Thompson and Life in the Administration

Session 5: Issues: CPS Financial Crisis, State Bond Sales, Pensions, and Taxes

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on August 6, 2015.

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

Redacted Interview: A small amount of material has been redacted from the interview. The unredacted interview will be released and available to the general public after January 1, 2026.

© 2014 Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Abstract

Robert Mandeville, *Illinois Statecraft*, IST-A-L-2013-103

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Robert Mandeville was born in Jacksonville, Illinois on April 29, 1931. In 1942, Bob relocated with his family to St. Louis County, Missouri, where his father worked for J.S. McDonnell while operating a truck farm. On the advice of his teachers in 1948, Bob skipped his senior year at St. Mary's high school in Bridgeton, Missouri to enroll at St. Benedict's College in Atchison, Kansas. He ran cross-country and boxed while at St. Benedict's, before transferring to St. Louis University, where he earned his B.A. in Mathematics. Following college, Bob served in the U.S. Air Force for four years as a radar bombardier aboard a B-29. After completing Basic Training, he married his wife Alma in 1953.

Upon leaving the air force in 1956, Bob embarked on a thirteen-year career in the aerospace industry that took him from working on the GAM-72 decoy missile at McDonnell Aircraft to planning the Apollo Program at Martin Marietta. This career trajectory culminated in his work at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) between 1962 and 1969. The latter year was something of a watershed in Bob's life since he also completed his Doctorate of Business Administration at George Washington University and made the decision to move to Illinois and take a position as an assistant director in Gov. Richard Ogilvie's new Bureau of the Budget. He served in this position until 1973, when he prepared Gov. Daniel Walker's first budget before leaving the Bureau to serve as the state's deputy comptroller under George Lindberg. Mandeville moved back to the Bureau of the Budget in 1977, this time as director, and served in Gov. Thompson's administration until 1990.

These interviews begin with Mandeville providing interesting detail on his upbringing, education, military service, and courtship of Alma, before shifting to his career prior to joining state government. The later interviews cover Ogilvie's importance in establishing the Bureau of the Budget, the role of the comptroller in state government, differences in gubernatorial leadership style, Mandeville's relationship with Gov. Thompson, key members of the Thompson administration, the budgeting process during Thompson's administration, relations with the state legislature, the role of the Bureau in policy planning, various policy issues during Thompson's tenure, and Mandeville's budget philosophy.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Governor's Bureau of the Budget; budgeting in Illinois; revenue forecasting; public finance; James R. Thompson; Richard B. Ogilvie; NASA; Gov. Daniel Walker; Comptroller's Uniform Statewide Accounting System (CUSAS); George W. Lindberg; Catholic religious orders; Chicago School Finance Authority; Class X sentencing; social life in Springfield, Illinois

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.

COPYRIGHT

The following material can be used for educational and other non-commercial purposes without the written permission of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. "Fair use" criteria of Section 107 of the Copyright Act of 1976 must be followed. These materials are not to be deposited in other repositories, nor used for resale or commercial purposes without the authorization from the Audio-Visual Curator at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 112 N. 6th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701. Telephone (217) 785-7955