

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Ben Kiningham

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

Interview # IS-A-L-2008-108

Ben Kiningham, Radio Statehouse Reporter, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *IL Statecraft* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: May 30, 2008 Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Interview Format: Digital Audio

Interviewer: Chris Reynolds, ALPL Volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:49 / 1.82 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on March 30, 2010.

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

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Abstract

Ben Kiningham, *Illinois Statecraft*, IS-A-L-2008-108

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Ben Kiningham was born on May 1, 1942 at Fort Riley, Kansas, while his father was deployed to Japan during World War II. Springfield, Illinois was his hometown; he graduated from Springfield High School in 1960, served in the Air Force and graduated from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in 1968. Kiningham worked as Reporter, News Director; Statehouse Bureau Chief for 40 years at various local radio stations and statewide radio networks (WGN, Illinois News Network and Illinois Radio Network). He covered or supervised the coverage of state government during the administrations of five governors from August 1974 to January 2006 when he retired as Capital Bureau Chief. Kiningham now resides in Petersburg where he is a member of Menard County Planning Commission. He served in the Illinois Air National Guard reserves, 183 TFG for 22 years and retired as a Major.

Subject Headings/Key Words: growing up in Springfield; early radio career; media positions during the Walker Administration; knowledge of Walker before he was governor; primary campaign and general election of 1972, status of media coverage during the period; Walker political image; Walker's personality; the big political battles of the period; Walker's relationship with the press; Walker's views about the press; memories of key political figures of the period and assessment of Walker as Governor, his successes or failures.

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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