

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Tom Livingston

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

Interview # ISG-A-L-2011-007

Tom Livingston, a travel aide, scheduler, then advisor on the policy staff for Governor Jim Edgar, 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: February 16, 2011 Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Interview Format: Digital audio

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

Transcription by: Audio Transcription Center

Edited by: Mike Czaplicki

Total Pages: 42 pgs. Total Time: 2:23 / 2.38 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on Mar 30, 2011.

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

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Abstract

Tom Livingston, *Illinois Statecraft*, ISG-A-L-2011-007

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Tom Livingston was born on August 14th, 1967 in Urbana, Illinois, and grew up in LaGrange, a Chicago suburb, graduating from the Lyons Township High School in 1985. He then attended the University of Illinois, majoring in communications and broadcasting, and soon found himself busy with extracurricular activities, including a campus fraternity, school government, and for two and a half years, playing the role of Chief Illiniwek, the school mascot, at sporting events and other school activities.

Livingston graduated in 1990, and because of a chance encounter he had in the summer of 1989 at a cable TV show on drunk driving where then Secretary of State Jim Edgar was present, he was asked to join the Edgar gubernatorial campaign after his graduation, helping with research and responding to questions from the public. Following Edgar's election, the new governor asked Livingston to serve as his travel aide. He did that job for two years, then became the governor's scheduler. In 1995, following Edgar's reelection, Livingston moved to Edgar's policy staff, focusing his efforts on higher education reform, capital development, transportation and infrastructure issues. He was at the heart of Edgar's effort to reorganize Illinois's universities, and with the controversy surrounding Chicago's Meigs Field, an issue over which Edgar and Mayor Richard M. Daley clashed. Livingston stayed with the administration for all eight years, and afterward, moved to the private sector, eventually working for CSX, the rail freight company.

Subject Headings/Key Words: University of Illinois; Chief Illiniwek; Governor Jim Edgar; Mike Belletire; Mike Lawrence; Carter Hendren; duties of a travel aid; Joan Walters; Kirk Dillard; Brenda Edgar; Illinois higher education reform in 1995; Meigs Field in Chicago; Richard M. Daley; University of Illinois at Springfield;

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