

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with John F. Dunn

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

Interview # ISL-A-L-2019-039

John F. Dunn, a Democratic legislator representing the Decatur area from 1975 to 1995, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Illinois Statecraft - Legislators* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: June 17, 19, 20, and July 17, 2019 Location: Dunn residence, Decatur, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Dr. Bob Sampson. ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Transcript
being processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 2:36 + 2:19 + 1:28 + 1:35 / 2.6 + 2.31 + 1.47 + 1.58 = 7.96 hrs.

Session 1: Early life, Decatur City Council and run for legislature

Session 2: Impact of Cutback Amendment and his 1982 primary

Session 3: Family life, post-House campaigns, Illinois governors

Session 4: Childhood memories, philosophy of public service

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on August 28, 2019.

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

© 2019 Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Abstract

John F. Dunn, *Illinois Statecraft-Legislators*, ISL-A-L-2019-039

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: John F. Dunn was born on December 24, 1936 in Logansport, Indiana. He is a resident of Decatur and a Democrat who served in the Illinois House of Representatives from January 1975 to January 1995, representing the 51st District and after 1983, the 101st District. He served on the Agriculture Committee and chaired the Transportation and Civil Law committees. In his last term, he was an Assistant House Majority Leader. He was a consistent supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment, an opponent of capital punishment, and while working as a lobbyist, played a major role in the passage of an indoor smoking ban. Prior to his service in the Illinois House, Dunn, a lawyer, served on the Decatur City Council. After retirement from the Illinois House, he made an unsuccessful run for circuit court judge in 1994 and the Illinois State Senate in 2002.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Equal Rights Amendment (ERA); Cutback Amendment; Michael Madigan; Harold Washington; Paul Powell; Oakley Dam/Lake Springer; Daniel Walker; Richard J. Daley; George Ryan; Rod Blagojevich; Richard M. Daley; Robert W. McCarthy; Rolland Tipsword; Smoke-Free Illinois; James Thompson; Jim Edgar; Paul Simon; Adlai E. Stevenson III; Aaron Jaffe; Penny Severns; health care; Roe v. Wade

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