

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Neil Hartigan

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

Interview # ISG-A-L-2010-012

Neil Hartigan, Illinois Lieutenant Governor (1973-1977), Attorney General (1983-1991), and 1990 Democratic gubernatorial candidate, was interviewed on the dates listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Illinois Statecraft – Jim Edgar* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Mar 18, 2010 Location: Hartigan residence in Chicago, Illinois

Date: Mar 19, 2010 Location: Hartigan residence in Chicago, Illinois

Date: Nov 12, 2010 Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield

Interview Format: Digital audio

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

Transcription by: Audio Transcription Center, Boston, MA

Edited by: Marianne Lawrence & Jan Culp, ALPL volunteers

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Session 1: The early years through Hartigan's years with Richard J. Daley

Session 2: The 1968 Democratic Convention and early experiences with Dan Walker

Session 3: Hartigan's term as lieutenant governor for Governor Dan Walker

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on October 18, 2017.

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

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# Abstract

## Neil Hartigan, Illinois Statecraft, ISG-A-L-2010-012

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Neil Hartigan was born on May 4th, 1938 in Chicago and grew up in an Irish Catholic family, the son of a lawyer who was also an alderman from the Rogers Park neighborhood. Hartigan attended Catholic Schools through high school and attended Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., before returning to Chicago to attend the Loyola University Law School, graduating in 1962. He soon began working for the City of Chicago and became an administrative assistant to Mayor Richard J. Daley. He continued with the city in a variety of positions, until the party selected him to be a candidate for lieutenant governor for the 1972 gubernatorial campaign. Hartigan won the Democratic primary, even while the party's candidate, Paul Simon, was defeated by the outsider Dan Walker, running on a campaign that condemned the Daley political machine. Dan Walker went on to win the general election, as did Hartigan, but there were serious tensions between Lieutenant Governor Hartigan and Governor Walker from the start. Due to that, Hartigan was unable to play any meaningful role in the Walker administration. He ran as the lieutenant governor candidate with Michael Howlett in 1976, but Howlett was soundly defeated by Jim Thompson in the general election.

In 1982 Hartigan ran for attorney general, defeating the incumbent Republican, Tyrone Fahner, in the general election. He served as Illinois's attorney general for two terms, and in 1990 he ran for governor against Jim Edgar, who had served for ten years as secretary of state. Attorney General Hartigan ran a spirited campaign, but lost to Edgar by a razor thin margin. Mr. Hartigan was unable to continue with the interview, so his story does not include his years as Attorney General or his race against Edgar for governor in 1990.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Governor Dan Walker; Mayor Richard J. Daley; 1968 Democratic Convention; Representative Dan Rostenkowski; Paul Simon; Jim Thompson; Jim Edgar;

**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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