

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with John Perkins

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Education is Key-Educational Reform Act of 1985 Oral History project

Interview # E85-A-L-2014-033

John Perkins, a career educator who discusses his tenure as director of an educational service center as well as implementation of the 1985 Educational Reform Act, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Education is Key-1985 Educational Reform Act* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Sep 30, 2014 Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL Volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:50 / 1.83 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on December 4, 2014.

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

Interview being
processed

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Abstract

John Perkins, *Education is Key*, E85-A-L-2014-033

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: John Perkins was born in Decatur, Illinois in July, 1943. He graduated from Deland-Weldon High School in 1961, and earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Eastern Illinois University in 1966. In 1973 he earned a Master of Science degree, followed by an Ed. D from the University of Illinois in 1987. John started his math teaching career at Mattoon Jr. High School (1966-69). He then went to Rantoul High School (1969-77), and eventually being Department Head. In 1977, John became an assistant high school principal and then high school principal at Clinton, Illinois (1977-85). John was named the first director of the newly formed Educational Service Center #13 in Charleston, IL, covering twenty-five school districts (1986-90), before moving on to a position at the Illinois State Board of Education (1990-93) in the area of Program Evaluation/Department of Research. He was involved in the evaluation of several of the reforms stemming from the 1985 Educational Reform Act, including Truant/Alternative Education, Limited English, Gifted, State Testing (IGAP), and Chapter I (Title I) programs. From 1995-2003, John served as the District Superintendent for the consolidated Paxton-Buckley Loda School District.

This interview covers the research behind some of the 1985 Educational Act Reforms including the School Effectiveness Studies being conducted at the University of Illinois. He discussed the creation of the Educational Services Centers, highlighting their mission, objectives, challenges, and services they provided. The Educational Service Centers were later eliminated and no longer exist today. Perkins also discussed the State Board of Education's (ISBE) evaluations of the Truant-Alternative programs, Limited English, Gifted, and State Testing (IGAP), all parts of the 1985 Reforms. Finally, the interview covers the impact of the reforms twenty years later, from a local school district perspective.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Educational Reform Act of 1985; educational research leading up to Reform Act's passage; formation, mission and challenges of the Educational Centers; Illinois State Board of Education evaluation of the Truant-Alternative, Limited English, Gifted, and State Testing (IGAP); Educational Service Center #13

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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