

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Mike McCormick

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

Interview # ISG-A-L-2010-028

Mike McCormick, long-time personal assistant to Governor Jim Edgar, 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: July 8, 2010 Location: McCormick's law office in Champaign, IL

Date: July 22, 2010 Location: McCormick's law office in Champaign, IL

Date: Aug. 6, 2010 Location: McCormick's law office in Champaign, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

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

Transcription by: Audio Transcription Center

Edited by: Rozanne Flatt

Total Pages: 133 Total Time: 3:01 + 3:01 + 1:30 / 3.02 + 3.02 + 1.5 = 7.54 hrs

Session 1: Early life through Gov. Edgar's first years as governor

Session 2: McCormick's service as Edgar's personal assistant

Session 3: McCormick's work with Edgar, post governorship

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on 2/3/2011.

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

Abstract

Mike McCormick, *Illinois Statecraft*, ISG-A-L-2010-028

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Mike McCormick was born on May 22nd, 1959 in Metropolis, Illinois and grew up in nearby Vienna, Illinois. His father was C.L. McCormick, a local merchant and campground owner, and also a long-time Republican state legislator from Johnson County and a legendary orator. Mike grew up immersed in his father's world of politics, and enrolled in law school at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale following his graduation from the University of Illinois in 1981. He passed the Illinois Bar exam in 1984, and began a private practice in his hometown of Vienna. He soon was hired as Vienna's city attorney, a part-time position, then was elected as state's attorney in 1988. Through it all, McCormick was active in Republican politics, becoming the Johnson County Republican Chairman in the 1980s.

McCormick was defeated for reelection in 1992, but soon received a call from Governor Jim Edgar's office. He spent the next year working in the Department of Transportation, then went to work for the Edgar reelection campaign, managing the Governor's campaign in southern Illinois. Following that successful election, he became Edgar's personal assistant, helping with scheduling; coordinating events, meetings and activities; and serving as an intermediary with other key staff. In 1998 Gov. Edgar nominated him to the Labor Relations Board, and after stepping down as governor, Edgar asked McCormick to continue serving as his personal assistant. McCormick joined the Champaign based law firm of Erwin, Martikus and Cole and continues to serve Gov. Edgar as his personal assistant to this day.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Gov. Jim Edgar; Gov. George Ryan; Gov. Jim Thompson; State Representative C.L. McCormick; Gov. Richard Ogilvie; Cutback Amendment; RUTAN Decision; Sec. of State Paul Powell; Janis Cellini; Andy Foster (Edgar's 1994 campaign manager); Mike Lawrence; Joan Walters; Dawn Clark Netsch; Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum;

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