

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Richard W. 'Rick' Carlson

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

Interview # ISG-A-L-2024-00?

(Name of interview subject), (job title/position if applicable, or reason for being interviewed; eg, 'a Korean War veteran'), was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's (*Project*) Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: July 12, 15 & 17, 2024 Location: Carlson home, Springfield, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Mark R. DePue. ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Indexed by: _____

Transcript being
processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 2:32 + 1:44 + 2:25 / 2.53 + 1.73 + 2.42 = 6.68 hrs

Session 1: Early life and work on the Republican Senate staff in early 1970s

Session 2: Memories of ERA votes and directorship of IL State Lottery

Session 3: Asst. Dir. Of Dept. of Insurance and Dir. Comprehensive Health Ins. Plan

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on (date).

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Abstract

Rick Carlson, *Illinois Statecraft*, ISG-A-L-2024-00?

Biographical Information/Overview of Interview: Richard W. ‘Rick’ Carlson was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota on January 22, 1946, and spent his middle school and high school years with his father in Moline, Illinois. attending public schools. He attended Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, graduating in 1968, then went to graduate school at the University of Illinois - Urbana/Champaign. In 1969 he did an internship with the Illinois Senate Republican staff, during a time when the legendary Russell Arrington was Senate President-pro tem.

Following the internship, he took a full-time job with the Senate Republicans, occasionally taking a hiatus to continue working on his Ph.D. Carlson worked on the staff of the Senate Revenue Committee until 1977, at which time Gov. Jim Thompson selected him to be the Director of the State Lottery until 1981. From 1981 through 1989 he was the Assistant Director of the Department of Insurance, and following that position he became the Executive Director of the Illinois Comprehensive Health Insurance Plan (CHIP) until his retirement in December 2002. During those years, he saw the state’s and nation’s health insurance programs go through a period of dramatic change, and helped insure that transition was a smooth one in Illinois.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Senator W. Russell Arrington; Gov. Jim Thompson; Illinois Senate Republican staff in the 1970s; Gov. Jim Edgar; Illinois State Lottery; Equal Rights Amendment fight in Illinois; IL Department of Insurance; Illinois Comprehensive Health Insurance Plan (CHIP); Senator Stanley Weaver; Illinois State Revenue Committee;

Notes 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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