

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Dick Simpson, PhD

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Education is Key – Civics Education Oral History project

Interview # ECE-A-L-2020-009

Dr. Dick Simpson, professor of political science at the University of Illinois - Chicago was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Education is Key – Civics Education* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Jan 22, 2020 Location: University of Illinois Chicago (UIC)

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:17 / 1.28 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on July 28, 2020.

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

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Abstract

Dick Simpson, *Education is Key – Civics*, ECE-A-L-2020-009

Biographical Information/Overview of Interview: Dick W. Simpson was born in Houston, Texas in November 1940. Dick's education included a BA degree in government from the University of Texas in 1963, an MA (1964) and a Ph.D. in Political Science (1968) from Indiana University. He also earned a Master of Divinity degree from McCormick Theological Seminary. His work experiences include being a Ford Fellow in Sierra Leone, teaching at UIC since 1967, serving as Chicago's 44th Ward Alderman for two terms, and running for the U.S. Congress. While at UIC, Dick has been director of Chicago Political Studies, director of Graduate Studies in Political Science, department head for the Political Science department and served on the UI President's Advisory Committee. Dick is the author of over twenty books on Illinois and Chicago politics and civics engagement and has produced numerous films and documentaries on Chicago and Illinois government.

Dr. Simpson discusses Illinois and Chicago politics and government from the perspective as an alderman, campaign manager and transition team member. His books include *Corrupt Illinois Rogues, Rebels and Rubber Stamps* and *Teaching Civics Engagement*. He talks about his interest in promoting civics education in Illinois Schools, including serving in a watch dog role. Simpson also discusses media literacy, teaching political science to college students and the various reforms which have taken place in Chicago, including the Shakman Decree. He reviewed the current state of governmental affairs nationally, in Chicago, and statewide, and reflects on his experiences both in Africa and in the civil rights movement.

Subject Headings/Key Words: African government activities; U.S. civil rights movement; experiences as Chicago alderman; managing a political campaign; civics education; civic engagement; teaching political science at University of Illinois Chicago; news literacy; Shakman decree

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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