

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Gene Reineke

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

Interview # ISG-A-L-2009-038

Eugene (Gene) Reineke, who worked for fifteen years in various capacities of the Jim Thompson and Jim Edgar administrations, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Illinois Statecraft – Jim Edgar* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Dec 7, 2009 Location: Reineke's office with Hill & Knowlton in Chicago, IL

Date: Apr 16, 2010 Location: Office at Loyola University Museum of Art, Chicago

Date: June 4, 2010 Location: Reineke's office with Hill & Knowlton in Chicago, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

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

Transcription by: Tape Transcription Center

Edited by: Mike Czaplicki, ALPL staff & Rozanne Flatt, ALPL Volunteer

Total Pages: 53 + 28 + 47 = 128 pages

Total Time: 2:39 + 1:32 + 2:38 / 2.65 + 1.53 + 2.63 = 6.81 hrs

Session 1: Early life through service with the Jim Thompson administration

Session 2: Service during Gov. Jim Edgar's first term, including an executive asst.

Session 3: Service as Gov Edgar's Chief of Staff from December 2004 thru Feb 2008

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on 9/23/2010.

The interviews are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in
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Abstract

Gene Reineke, *Illinois Statecraft*, ISG-A-L-2009-038

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Eugene “Gene” Reineke was born on September 8th, 1956 in the borough of Queens, New York City, and grew up on Long Island until the family moved to St. Charles, Illinois when he was sixteen. From an early age, Gene had a fascination with politics, and majored in political science while in college at Loyola University in Chicago. In 1979 he began graduate school at Boston College, and thereafter served as an intern in the U.S. Congress before returning to Illinois to begin his working career. By 1983 he began working as a scheduler for Governor Jim Thompson, and soon was moving up the ladder, first as Thompson’s director of Public Affairs in 1985, then director of Thompson’s ambitious Build Illinois in 1986, then as the Director of Personnel from 1987-1988. He spent the last two years of Thompson’s administration as the director of the Illinois Department of Central Management Services.

Reineke made the transition to the Jim Edgar administration, starting as the executive director of the Republican Party’s State Central Committee. In 1992 he became the executive director of “Illinois for Bush – Quayle”, and in 1993-1994 worked as the governor’s executive assistant for Economic Development. Upon Edgar’s reelection in 1994, Reineke took over as Chief of Staff, a position he held until his move to the private sector in early 1998. As Chief of Staff, he was actively involved in the governor’s efforts to create the new Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Human Services, and with Edgar’s concerted efforts for educational reform, plus countless other issues and concerns.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Gov. Jim Thompson; Gov. Jim Edgar; Build Illinois: Director of Personnel (patronage chief) for Gov. Thompson; Central Management Services; “Illinois for Bush – Quayle”: economic development in Illinois during Edgar administration; Edgar’s Chief of Staff, 1994-1998; educational reform during Edgar administration; organization of the IL Department of Natural Resources; organization of the IL Department of Human Services; MSI (Management Services of Illinois) scandal;

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