

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Adlai Stevenson, III

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
*Illinois Statecraft* Oral History project

Interview # IST-A-L-2014-019

Senator Adlai Stevenson, III, the former Illinois senator who ran for Governor twice against Jim Thompson, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Illinois Statecraft – Gov. Jim Thompson* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Jul 8, 2014      Location: Stevenson residence in Chicago, Illinois

Date: Aug 5, 2014      Location: Stevenson residence in Chicago, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

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

Transcription by: \_\_\_\_\_

Edited by: \_\_\_\_\_

Interview being  
processed

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_      Total Time: 2:21 + 2:01 / 2.35 + 2.02 = 4.37 hrs

Session 1: The 1982 Illinois Gubernatorial campaign

Session 2: Contesting the 1982 election, and 1986 election and LaRouche candidates

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on August 20, 2014.

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

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# Abstract

## Adlai Stevenson, III, *Illinois Statecraft*, IST-A-L-2014-019

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Adlai Stevenson III was born on October 30, 1930 in Chicago, Illinois into one of the state's most prominent political families. His father, Adlai II, served as governor from 1949 through 1952, and ran for president of the United States twice. Adlai III served in a variety of political offices, resigning from the U.S. Senate in 1981.

Senator Stevenson ran for governor twice against then governor Jim Thompson. His first run was in 1982 in the midst of a very tough year, economically. He lost the election by a razor thin margin of five thousand votes, and immediately contested the election, charging vote fraud in DuPage County, and many irregularities in downstate Illinois. The Illinois Supreme Court rejected his request for a state-wide recount only days prior to Governor Thompson's inauguration. Stevenson accepted the decision, but believed then, and still maintains that he had won the election. U.S. Attorney Dan Webb did investigate the vote fraud allegations, and found major problems in Cook County leading to sixty three convictions, but no one was prosecuted from the Republican stronghold in DuPage County.

Stevenson ran again for governor in 1986, with the polls in late 1985 giving him a good chance for victory. His plans were upset during the Democratic primary when two supporters of Lyndon LaRouche won as Democrats to represent the party in the Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of State races. Stevenson eventually ran under the banner of the newly created Solidarity Party rather than run with a LaRouche candidate on the ticket. This interview deals almost exclusively on these two races. Stevenson had an extensive interview covering his entire career in 2000.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Adlai Stevenson II; Governor Jim Thompson; 1982 Illinois gubernatorial race; 1986 gubernatorial race; John Schmidt; 1982 Illinois Supreme Court case on the gubernatorial election; Lyndon LaRouche; pinstripe patronage; the Israel lobby in the early 1980s; U.S. Dan Webb; investigation into vote fraud in 1982 election; DuPage County politics; Richard J. Daley;

**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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