

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Ann Lousin
Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Illinois Statecraft Oral History project
Interview # IS-A-L-2013-038

Ann Lousin, a Research Assistant at the 1970 Constitutional Convention, and later the chair of the Civil Service Commission for Governor Jim Thompson, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Illinois Statecraft* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Dates: Jun 17, June 18, Sep 6, Oct 1, Oct 8, Nov 22, Dec 18, 2013, Jan 22, Mar 25, 2014

Location: John Marshal Law School, 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: 2:46(1) + 2:42(2) + 2:08(3) + 2:10(4) + 2:22(5) + 2:13(6) + 1:43(7) + 2:07(8) + 1:43(9) / 2.77(1) + 2.7(2) + 2.13(3) + 2.17(4) + 2.37(5) + 2.22(6) + 1.77(7) + 2.12(8) + 1.72(9) = 19.97 hrs

Session 1: Early years and 1970 Constitutional Convention

Session 2: IL Con Con on school funding, home rule and redistricting

Session 3: IL Con Con on executive powers, judicial powers and taxing issues

Session 4: 1970 IL State Constitution and Cumulative Voting plus other issues

Session 5: Work with House Speaker W. Robert Blair, duties as Parliamentarian

Session 6: Life as a Parliamentarian during Dan Walker Administration

Session 7: Service as chair of Gov. Jim Thompson's Civil Service Commission

Session 8: Dept. of Corrections Advisory Bd, Redistricting & Bernie Epton campaign

Session 9: Reflections on her work on the IL State Constitution and recent IL politics

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on June 3, 2014.

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

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Abstract

Ann Lousin, *Illinois Statecraft*, IS-A-L-2013-038

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Ann Lousin was born in February, 1943 in Chicago, Illinois, where she also grew up. Following graduation from high school, Ann attended Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa. In 1964 she began law school at the University of Chicago, earning her law degree in 1968. In 1969 she became a research assistant at Illinois's Constitutional Convention, a subject that has fascinated her ever since. Lousin has written extensively on the state's constitution, and is now considered the most knowledgeable authority on the subject. It was also during this period that she began a life-long friendship with Dawn Clark Netsch. Following the adoption of the Constitution in the 1970 general election, Lousin was selected to serve first as a staff assistant and later as the parliamentarian in the Illinois House of Representatives at a time when W. Robert Blair (Republican) was the Speaker of the House. In 1975, she began a long and distinguished career as professor at the John Marshall Law School.

Following Jim Thompson's election as governor in 1976, he appointed Lousin to the Illinois State Civil Service Commission, where she served until 1983. In that role she heard allocation, discharge and suspension related appeals from state employees. While always retaining her position at the law school, Lousin has also served on the Redistricting Process Review Commission from 1992 to 1999, the Adult Advisory Board to the Department of Corrections from 1994 to 2003, and the Illinois Courts Commission from 2001 to 2003. Throughout her career, Lousin has been an astute observer of Illinois politics and government.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Illinois State Constitution; 1970 Constitutional Convention; Dawn Clark Netsch; Gov. James R. Thompson; W. Robert Blair; Equal Rights Amendment fight in Illinois; role of the IL House parliamentarian; Illinois State Civil Service Commission; redistricting in Illinois; Illinois pension problems; Gov. Rod Blagojevich; Gov. Dan Walker; Adult Advisory Board - IL Department of Corrections; Illinois Courts Commission; Gov. Jim Edgar; Gov. George Ryan; Bernard Epton race for mayor of Chicago

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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