

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Randall Witter

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Project Name Oral History project

Interview # ISE-A-L-2022-028

Randy Witter, a life-long lobbyist who describes the legislative process, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Illinois Statecraft – General Interest* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: May 12, 2022 Location: Witter's work office in Springfield, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Mark R. DePue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:44 / 1.73 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on _____.

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

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Abstract

Randall Witter, Illinois Statecraft, ISE-A-L-2022-028

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Randall (Randy) Witter was born in November 1948 in Moline, Illinois. Randy grew up in Rock Island and graduated from high school in 1966. He graduated from Western Illinois University in 1970, and after being drafted into the U.S. Army, he served in Germany, then returned and attended graduate school at Sangamon State University, earning his master's in public administration in 1973. A few months later, in 1974, he began working with Bob Cook as a lobbyist in the Illinois state legislature, retiring in 2011.

In a previous interview in 2020 Randy included a discussion his personal memories about the ERA during his time as a lobbyist. In this interview, he discussed at length the legislative process as it occurs in Illinois. After laying out the basics of the process, he discussed the specific actions the legislature took during the 1972 through 1975 legislative sessions. Specifically, he explained what was written in a document prepared by the Legislative Research Unit for the year by year Equal Rights Amendment actions taken in the Illinois legislature.

Subject Headings/Key Words: ERA fight in Illinois; Illinois State Senate; Illinois State House; Senate President William Harris; House Speaker W. Robert Blair; Senate President Cecil ParTEE; Representative Thomas Hanahan; Eugenia Dyer; Gov. Dan Walker; Senator Esther Saperstein; House Rules Committee; Senate Committee on Assignments;

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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