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An Interview with Robert Maher

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Education is Key-Community College Oral History project

Interview # EC-A-L-2013-067

Robert Maher served as Legislative Assistant to Governor Otto Kerner when the Jr. College Act of 1965 was passed. Later he served as Legal Council for the Community College Trustees Association (1970-1998). This interview covers that period plus his own experiences as a Junior College student at Alton, Grand Rapids, and Wright. He was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Education is Key-Community College* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: August 14, 2013 Location: Telephonic interview, with Maher in Florida

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Phil Pogue ALPL Volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Interview being
processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:08 / 1.13 hrs

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

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Abstract

Robert Maher, *Education is Key*, EC-A-L-2013-067

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Robert (Bob) Maher was born in Marion, Indiana in 1922. During his childhood, Robert's family moved often, so he attended four Chicago High Schools before graduating from Austin Community Academy High School (Chicago's west side) in 1940. He attended junior college in Alton and Grand Rapids, Michigan before graduating from Wright Junior College (Chicago) in 1942. Maher served during WW II with the 3rd Army in Europe. Upon leaving the Army he used the G.I. Bill to attend and graduate from DePaul College of Law in 1949. His work experiences include Assistant States Attorney Cook County, a law practice from 1949-1998, Illinois State Senator from 1959 through 1962, Legislative Liaison to Governor Otto Kerner, Legislative Council, and Director of Illinois State Toll Highway Authority. In 1965, during the Kerner administration, he served as Legislative Assistant to Governor Otto Kerner when the Jr. College Act of 1965 was passed. Maher talks about the passage of that important piece of legislation in detail.

Subject Headings/Key Words: History of the Junior College Act of 1965; determination of Community Colleges as an independent governmental agency; history of community colleges (1940-2000)

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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