

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Malcolm Kamin,

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Illinois Statecraft - Pension Crisis in Illinois Oral History project

Interview # ISC-A-L-2016-023

Malcolm Kamin served as a delegate to the 1969 Constitutional Convention (Con Con) representing Chicago. His assignments were the Education Article and the Transition Committee. He was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Illinois Statecraft – Pension Crisis in Illinois* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: April 25, 2016 Location: Chicago, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:51 / 1.85 hrs.

Transcript
being processed

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on June 28, 2016.

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

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Malcolm Kamin, *Illinois Statecraft*, ISC-A-L-2016-023

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Malcolm Kamin was born in Chicago, Illinois in March, 1939, and grew up in Evanston, graduating from Evanston High School in 1957. He graduated from Yale University in 1960 with a degree in History, then returned to Chicago to complete his J.D. degree at the University of Chicago Law School. Upon earning his law degree, Malcolm worked for Arvey, Hodes, Costello, and Burman (formerly Arvey, Hodes and Mantynband) from 1964 to 1992, specializing in labor relations. He also served on the Constitutional Amendment Committee of the Chicago Bar Association. He worked at the law firm of Abramson and Fox until 2006, and at Grumley, Kamin, and Rosic LLC from thereafter. Due to his interest in politics, Malcolm in 1969 was elected as a delegate from Chicago to the 1970 State Constitutional Convention. He served on the committee dealing with Education. He later served on the statewide Task Force on Adult Education and as a hearing officer for the Fair Employment Practices Commission. Kamin also has been involved with American Civil Liberties Union, the Chicago Historical Society and the Committee on Illinois Government.

In this interview Kamin discusses the period of the State Constitutional Convention which led to Illinois's voters approving a new Illinois State Constitution in 1970, a constitution still in effect at the time of this interview. In particular, Kamin discusses the topics discussed in the Convention's Education Committee, and the call for the public sector pension clause question as an amendment rather than being assigned to a committee for more detailed review. He also covers the election of the delegates through a primary and then fall election, and the major topics addressed at the convention, including a flat tax, veto power of the governor, home rule, creation of the State Board of Education, election of judges and future bonding powers. Kamin also discusses the delegate makeup and the important role played by delegates independent of the two major parties. Also discussed was the leadership role played by the Chicago delegation. Finally, Kamin addresses the recently discussed constitutional amendments regarding a graduated income tax and greater state funding for K through 12 education.

Subject Headings/Key Words: 1970 Illinois Constitutional Convention (ConCon); election of delegates to ConCon; ConCon Education Committee; Pension Clause of the Illinois State Constitution; Illinois Constitution's flat income tax versus a graduated tax; ConCon discussions on K-12 education funding

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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