

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Robert Leininger

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

Interview # AI-A-L-2011-018

Robert Leininger, State Superintendent of Illinois from 1988 to 1994, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Agriculture in Illinois – School District Reorganization* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: May 11, 2011 Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPLM Volunteer

Transcription by:

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

Interview being  
processed

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Time: 1:08/1.13 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on February 13, 2012.

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

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## Abstract

### Robert Leininger, Agriculture in Illinois, AI-A-L-2011-018

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Robert Leininger was born in Lincoln, Illinois on June 2nd, 1938. He graduated from Elkhart High School in 1956, from Western Illinois University in 1960 and from the University of Illinois in 1964, receiving his degree in school administration. He started his teaching career at Centerville in Whiteside County, Illinois, and then at Lyndon, Illinois he became the Principal and Superintendent. He also was Superintendent at Fulton, Illinois. In 1976, he joined the State Board of Education as a government relations officer for State Superintendent Joe Cronin. In 1988 Leininger became State Superintendent, serving until February 1994. Upon his retiring he worked for Magna (Regions) Bank and served as a chairman for the Educational Funding Advisory Board. He now resides in Cadiz, Kentucky.

Leininger discussed the impact of the 1985 School Reform Act. During his tenure as State Superintendent Leininger worked on many school reorganization and consolidation issues, and was generally supportive of such measures.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** school reorganization; Illinois State Board of Education; 1985 School Reform Act; obstacles/ incentives for reorganization; role of State Superintendent; school construction; General Assembly; Governor Pat Quinn; Illinois House Bill 1216; consolidation, annexation, deactivation, conversion of schools

**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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