

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Dick Lockhart

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Illinois Statecraft Oral History project

Interview # IS-A-L-2012-024

Richard 'Dick' Lockhart, a lobbyist with over fifty years working in the Illinois Legislature, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Illinois Statecraft* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Jun 1, 2012 Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Date: Jun 20, 2012 Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Date: Jun 26, 2012 Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Mark R. DePue, Director of Oral History, ALPL

Transcription by: Carolyn Berning, ALPL volunteer

Edited by: Patty Maynor & Rozanne Robertson, ALPL volunteers

Total Pages: 117 pgs Total Time: 1:46 + 2:03 + 2:10 / 1.77 + 2.05 + 2.17 = 5.99 hrs

Session 1: Early career as a lobbyist and starting Social Engineering Associates

Session 2: Lobbying career from 1968 through 1990

Session 3: Lobbying during the Gov. Edgar, Ryan and Blagojevich administrations

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on August 21, 2012.

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

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Abstract

Dick Lockhart, *Illinois Statecraft*, IS-A-L-2012-024

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Richard T. (Dick) Lockhart was born on January 20th, 1924 in Lima, Ohio, and grew up in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. His World War II veteran and POW experiences can be found in the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Veterans Remember* oral history collection. In 1958 Lockhart began his own lobbying firm, Social Engineering Associates, focusing on smaller clients, most significant being the Mental Health Association of Illinois. Later, he added many more clients, including ones in the area of public pensions, the Illinois Press Association, security interests and many others. In the early 1960s Lockhart also hosted a television talk show for Channel 11 in Chicago entitled *Metropolitan Report*, where he interviewed prominent public figures, including then Illinois House Speaker Paul Powell. In 1961 he began publishing a monthly newsletter, *The Illinois Political Reporter*, which became 'must reading' for the denizens of state politics, and which he continued to publish until 1986 when increased lobbying demands left no time for the newsletter.

At the time of this interview in 2012 Lockhart had been serving as a lobbyist for over fifty-three years. He discussed his life as a lobbyist, and his role in representing his clients and affecting dozens of pieces of legislation. He talked at length about the many political figures he has worked with over the years, in particular, the most prominent members of the Illinois Legislature, including House Speaker Mike Madigan, Senate Presidents Phil Rock, James 'Pate' Philip and Emil Jones, Minority Leader Lee Daniels, and many others. Still a very prominent player in the State Legislature at eighty-eight, he had no intentions of retiring in the near future. He retired in 2018 and passed away on November 21, 2019 at the age of 95.

Subject Headings/Key Words: lobbying in the Illinois state legislature; Illinois Constitutional Convention of 1970; Illinois House Speaker Mike Madigan; Senator Phil Rock; Senator James 'Pate' Philip; Illinois House Speaker Lee Daniels; Senator Emil Jones; crafting legislation in Illinois; *The Illinois Political Reporter*; Gov. Dan Walker; Gov. Jim Thompson; Gov. Jim Edgar; Gov. George Ryan; Gov. Rod Blagojevich; then State Senator Barack Obama; Mental Health Association;

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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