

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with James 'Pate' Philip & Carter Hendren

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Illinois Statecraft Oral History project

Interview # ISL-A-L-2011-014

James 'Pate' Philip, longtime leader of the Illinois Senate Republicans, and Senate President from 1993-2002, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Illinois Statecraft* Oral History project. Carter Hendren served for many years as Senator Philip Chief of Staff and participated in the second interview session.

Interview dates & location:

Date: May 9, 2011 Location: Pate Philip residence in Wood Dale, Illinois

Date: July 11, 2012 Location: Pate Philip residence in Wood Dale, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

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

Transcription by: Carolyn Berning, ALPL volunteer

Edited by: Jan Culp, ALPL volunteer

Total Pages: 142 pgs Total Time: 1:23 + 4:05 / 1.38 + 4.08 = 5.46 hrs

Session 1: Early years through Philip's election to IL House in 1966.

Session 2: Career in the Illinois State Senate from 1976 to 2003, with comments from Carter Hendren.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on February 11, 2015.

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

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Abstract

James ‘Pate’ Philip, *Illinois Statecraft*, ISL-A-L-2011-014

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: James ‘Pate’ Philip was born on May 26, 1930 in Elmhurst, Illinois, where he grew up. Upon his graduation from high school in 1949, Philip attended Kansas State University, but never graduated as was drafted and went into the Marine Corps in 1950, during the Korean War. He spent his tour in the United States, and following his release, began a long career with Pepperidge Farm, eventually becoming a district sales manager. He was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives in 1966, and served there until 1974, when he ran for the Illinois Senate, and easily won the election, representing a strongly Republican district in DuPage County. Philip quickly moved into a leadership position, and in 1981 was chosen by his fellow Republicans to be the Minority Leader. In 1993 he became Senate President when the Republicans became the majority party, a position he held until his retirement in 2002.

During his tenure as the Republican leader in the Senate, Philip developed a reputation for being a ‘straight-talking Marine.’ He consistently fought for fiscal responsibility, was a traditional conservative on such issues as the Equal Rights Amendment, gun control, crime and the death penalty, and was a strong advocate for the interests of the Chicago suburbs and downstate. He was vocal in his claim that Chicago ‘always got more than its share’ of the state’s resources. In 1995-1996, Philip was instrumental in pushing through a major reform of Chicago schools, giving Mayor Richard M. Daley direct oversight over the schools. Being disdainful of political correctness, and often blunt in his public statements, Philip’s detractors often accused him of being a racist and sexist. Throughout his many years in the Senate, however, he retained the support of his Republican caucus, and worked successfully with his democratic counterparts. During the second session of this interview, Senator Philip’s Chief of Staff, Carter Hendren, also sat in on the interview and shared many of the behind the scenes details of various legislative initiatives.

Subject Headings/Key Words: President of the Illinois Senate during the 1990s & minority leader in the 1980s; Gov. Jim Thompson; Gov. Jim Edgar; George Ryan; Senator Phil Rock; Speaker of the IL House Mike Madigan; Minority Leader Lee Daniels; service in the Marine Corps during Korean War; Elmhurst, Illinois; Chicago school reform; Equal Rights Amendment; Senator Emil Jones; Pepperidge Farm; Barack Obama as Illinois Senator; Governor Rod Blagojevich;

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