

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Ann Lousin

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Project Name Oral History project

Interview # ISE-A-L-2022-031

Ann Lousin, the Parliamentarian for the Illinois House of Representatives from 1973 to 1975, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Illinois Statecraft-ERA Fight in Illinois* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: August 8, 2022 Location: Telephonic interview, with Dr. Lousin in her office
at the University of Illinois – Chicago law school

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Mark R. DePue, ALPL Oral History volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Transcript being
processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:30 / 1.5 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on (date).

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

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There is a short break in the recording which begins at 5:19. There is approximately
one minute lost in the interview.

Abstract

Ann Lousin, Illinois Statecraft, ISE-A-L-2022-031

Biographical Information/Overview of Interview: Ann Lousin was born in February, 1943 in Chicago, Illinois, where she also grew up. Following graduation from high school, Ann attended Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa. In 1964, she began law school at the University of Chicago, earning her law degree in 1968. In 1969 she became a research assistant at Illinois's Constitutional Convention, a subject that has fascinated her ever since.

Lousin has written extensively on the state's constitution and at the time of the interview was considered the most knowledgeable authority on the subject. It was also during this period that she began a life-long friendship with Senator Dawn Clark Netsch. Following the adoption of the Illinois Constitution in the 1970 general election, Lousin was selected to serve first as a staff assistant and in 1973 as the parliamentarian for the Illinois House of Representatives at a time when W. Robert Blair (Republican) was the Speaker of the House. In 1975, she began a long and distinguished career as a professor at the John Marshall Law School.

In this interview, Dr. Lousin discusses the Illinois House's attempts to pass the Equal Rights Amendment in 1972 and 1973, and her decision as parliamentarian in 1973 to adhere to the Illinois Constitution's requirement to pass amendments by a three-fifths vote.

Subject Headings/Key Words: 1970 Illinois State Constitution; Equal Rights Amendment fight in Illinois House of Representatives; question on 3/5 vote or simple majority for ERA votes in Illinois House; Susan Catania; Eugenia Chapman; W. Robert Blair; Goudyloch 'Giddy' Dyer; Mayor Richard J. Daley; Bill Singer; Adlai Stevenson III; Jesse Jackson, Sr;

Notes 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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