

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Dan Webb

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

Interview # IST-A-L-2016-034

Dan Webb, who served as U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois in the early 1980s, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Illinois Statecraft – Gov. Jim Thompson* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Dates: Jul 19 & Nov 18, 2016

Location: Offices of Winston and Strawn, Chicago, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

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

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Transcript
being processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:50 + 1:28 / 1.83 + 1.47 = 3.3 hrs

Session 1: Early life and experiences with Jim Thompson in U.S. Attorney's office

Session 2: U.S. Attorney experiences, vote fraud investigation & Operation Greylord

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on December 13, 2016.

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

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Abstract

Dan Webb, *Illinois Statecraft*, IST-A-L-2016-034

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Dan Webb was born in September, 1945 in Macomb, Illinois and grew up in nearby Bushnell. Following graduation from Bushnell High School in 1963, he attended Western Illinois University in Macomb, Illinois. He attended law school at Loyola University, receiving his J.D. degree in 1970. In the early 1970s he worked as an assistant U.S. Attorney for the northern district of Illinois, including the years when Jim Thompson was the U.S. Attorney. Webb shares his insights into Jim Thompson both personally and as a lawyer. Webb went into private practice in 1975, and also made time to help Thompson run for governor in his 1976 and 1978 gubernatorial campaigns. In both cases, Thompson won the election by overwhelming margins.

Follow Ronald Reagan's election as president in 1980, Webb was appointed as the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, a position he held from 1981 to 1985. During that time, his office participated in the prosecution of several high profile cases, including a major vote fraud investigation conducted following Governor Thompson's razor thin margin of victory in the 1982 election against Adlai Stevenson III. Both sides accused their opponent's camp with vote fraud. The FBI conducted an extensive investigation, and a grand jury issued a report detailing the scope and breadth of the vote fraud. Webb's office cooperated with the FBI during its investigation and prosecuted sixty five individuals for federal election crimes; sixty-three of those were convicted. Webb's office also conducted a massive political corruption case named Greylord, which began before his tenure, and was completed by his successor. Ninety-three individuals were indicted, and most of those were convicted, including judges, lawyers, deputy sheriffs, police officers and one legislator. Webb returned to private practice in 1985, joining the firm of Winston and Strawn.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Governor Jim Thompson; Operation Greylord; vote fraud in Cook County, Illinois; Western Illinois University; growing up in Bushnell, Illinois; Adlai Stevenson III; William Bauer; Report of the Special January 1982 Grand Jury, U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois; relationship between FBI investigations and U.S. Attorneys' prosecution of cases;

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