Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Neil Hartigan

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

Interview # ISG-A-L-2010-012


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Date: Mar 18, 2010  Location: Hartigan residence in Chicago, Illinois
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Interviewer: Mark R. DePue, Director of Oral History, ALPL

Transcription by: Audio Transcription Center, Boston, MA

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Session 1: The early years through Hartigan’s years with Richard J. Daley
Session 2: The 1968 Democratic Convention and early experiences with Dan Walker
Session 3: Hartigan's term as lieutenant governor for Governor Dan Walker

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

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Abstract
Neil Hartigan, Illinois Statecraft, ISG-A-L-2010-012

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Neil Hartigan was born on May 4th, 1938 in Chicago and grew up in an Irish Catholic family, the son of a lawyer who was also an alderman from the Rogers Park neighborhood. Hartigan attended Catholic Schools through high school and attended Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., before returning to Chicago to attend the Loyola University Law School, graduating in 1962. He soon began working for the City of Chicago and became an administrative assistant to Mayor Richard J. Daley. He continued with the city in a variety of positions, until the party selected him to be a candidate for lieutenant governor for the 1972 gubernatorial campaign. Hartigan won the Democratic primary, even while the party’s candidate, Paul Simon, was defeated by the outsider Dan Walker, running on a campaign that condemned the Daley political machine. Dan Walker went on to win the general election, as did Hartigan, but there were serious tensions between Lieutenant Governor Hartigan and Governor Walker from the start. Due to that, Hartigan was unable to play any meaningful role in the Walker administration. He ran as the lieutenant governor candidate with Michael Howlett in 1976, but Howlett was soundly defeated by Jim Thompson in the general election.

In 1982 Hartigan ran for attorney general, defeating the incumbent Republican, Tyrone Fahner, in the general election. He served as Illinois’s attorney general for two terms, and in 1990 he ran for governor against Jim Edgar, who had served for ten years as secretary of state. Attorney General Hartigan ran a spirited campaign, but lost to Edgar by a razor thin margin. Mr. Hartigan was unable to continue with the interview, so his story does not include his years as Attorney General or his race against Edgar for governor in 1990.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Governor Dan Walker; Mayor Richard J. Daley; 1968 Democratic Convention; Representative Dan Rostenkowski; Paul Simon; Jim Thompson; Jim Edgar;

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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