

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Ben Kiningham

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

Interview # ISP-A-L-2008-108

Interview # ISP-A-L-2010-020

Ben Kiningham, a statehouse journalist and bureau chief covering the Illinois statehouse for the Capital Information Bureau Radio News network and WGN radio, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Illinois Statecraft-Journalist* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: May 30, 2008    Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Date: Apr 30, 2010    Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Date: Jul 30, 2010    Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Chris Reynolds

Transcription by: \_\_\_\_\_

Edited by: \_\_\_\_\_

Interview being  
processed

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_    Total Time: 1:49 + 1:44 + 1:42 / 1.82 + 1.73 + 1.7 = 5.25 hrs

Session 1: Kiningham's coverage of the Gov. Dan Walker administration

Session 2: Kiningham's coverage of the Gov. Jim Thompson administration

Session 3: Kiningham's coverage of the Gov. Jim Edgar administration

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

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

# Abstract

Ben Kiningham, *Illinois Statecraft*, ISP-A-L-2010-020

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Ben Kiningham was born on May 1, 1942 at Fort Riley, Kansas, while his father was deployed to Japan during World War II. Springfield, Illinois was his hometown; he graduated from Springfield High School in 1960, served in the Air Force and graduated from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in 1968. Kiningham worked as Reporter, News Director; Statehouse Bureau Chief for 40 years at various local radio stations and statewide radio networks (WGN, Illinois News Network and Illinois Radio Network).

Kiningham covered or supervised the coverage of state government during the administrations of five governors from August 1974 to January 2006 when he retired as Capital Bureau Chief. These interviews cover the Dan Walker, Jim Thompson and Jim Edgar administrations, from 1974 through 1998. Kiningham now resides in Petersburg where he is a member of Menard County Planning Commission. He served in the Illinois Air National Guard reserves, 183 TFG for 22 years and retired as a Major.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Governor Dan Walker; Governor Jim Thompson; Governor Jim Edgar; reporting on Illinois politics; Springfield, Illinois; WGN radio; Illinois News Network; Illinois Radio Network;

**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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