

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Emil Jones

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

Interview # IS-A-L-2008-105

Emil Jones, the Democratic Minority Leader in the Illinois Senate from 1993 to 2002, and President of the Senate from 2003 to 2008, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Illinois Statecraft* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Nov 10, 2008 Location: James R. Thompson Center, 100 W. Randolph, Chicago, IL

Date: Nov 24, 2008 Location: James R. Thompson Center, 100 W. Randolph, Chicago, IL

Date: Jan 6, 2009 Location: James R. Thompson Center, 100 W. Randolph, Chicago, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Dr. Erma Brooks-Williams, ALPL Oral History Volunteer Program

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

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

Indexed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Interview being  
processed

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_ Total Time: 1:11 + 1:17 + 0:33/1.18 + 1.28 + 0.55 = 3:01/3.02 hrs

Session 1: Jones' early life and start in politics.

Session 2: Political career in the Illinois General Assembly

Session 3: Reflections on Senate Presidency, R. Blagojevich and B. Obama.

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

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

© 2008 Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

# Abstract

## Emil Jones, *Illinois Statecraft*, IS-A-L-2008-105

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Emil Jones, Jr. was born on October 18th, 1935 in Chicago, Illinois. Jones graduated from Chicago's Tilden Technical High School, then Chicago Loop Junior College and Chicago State University. He later attended Roosevelt University, where he majored in business administration and received a Doctorate of Humane Letters Honoris Causa degree in 2004. He began his politics career in Chicago via grass roots ward politics. Jones served as a member of the General Assembly from 1973 to 2009. As a member of the Illinois House of Representatives from 1973 to 1983, he served as an Assistant Minority Leader and Chair of the Insurance Committee. He was elected to the Illinois Senate in 1982, and served as a member of the Senate Executive Committee, as well as vice-chair of the General Assembly Retirement System's Board of Trustees.

From 1993 through 2002 Jones served as the Senate Minority Leader. He became Majority Leader in 2003, a position he held until 2008. He supported social justice and fair and adequate funding of public education in Illinois. It was during this time that he worked with Governor Rod Blagojevich and mentored Senator Barack Obama.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Chicago Tilden Technical High School; Chicago State University; Roosevelt University; Chicago ward politics; Illinois General Assembly; Illinois Senate President; Public Education funding in Illinois; Governor Rod Blagojevich; President Barack Obama; Senator Roland Burris; Senator John Cullerton

**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.

### **COPYRIGHT**

**The following material can be used for educational and other non-commercial purposes without the written permission of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. "Fair use" criteria of Section 107 of the Copyright Act of 1976 must be followed. These materials are not to be deposited in other repositories, nor used for resale or commercial purposes without the authorization from the Audio-Visual Curator at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 112 N. 6th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701. Telephone (217) 785-7955**