

Special Edition for Black History Month

## AFRICAN AMERICAN LEGISLATORS IN ILLINOIS, 1876-2005

### About This Issue

February is Black History Month, which is commemorated in many ways by many groups throughout Illinois, the United States, and in other countries. This issue of First Reading is dedicated to the African Americans who have served, or are serving, as legislators in the Illinois General Assembly.

Three prominent African American legislators are featured: Cecil Partee, the first African American President of the Senate; former senator and Chicago Mayor Harold Washington, and Senator Emil Jones, Jr., current Senate President and the most senior African American legislator currently serving.

For Senators Washington and Jones we present a brief biographical sketch. For Senator Partee we are able to present, in his own words, his recollection of important events and legislative issues in his career. These excerpts cover issues of fair housing, civil rights, educational opportunity, and more, and are taken from his oral history from interviews conducted in the fall of 1979 and the spring of 1981. They have been edited slightly for clarity and flow. Unfortunately, the subjects of the Illinois General Assembly Oral History Program contained only one female (but not African American) legislator, so that perspective is lacking.

### African American Legislators

John W. E. Thomas of Chicago, the first African American Illinois legislator, was elected to the House of Representatives in 1876. Since then, 129 African American legislators have served in the General Assembly: 29 senators (14 of whom also served in the House) and 114 representatives. Of the 129, 95 were Democrats, 32 were Republicans, and 2 were first elected as Independents.

The first African American elected to the Senate was Adelbert H. Roberts in 1924. In 1927 he became the first African American to chair a committee—the Committee on Criminal Procedure. The first African American woman legislator, Floy Clements, was elected to the House in 1958.

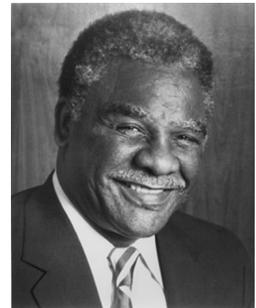
Cecil A. Partee has the distinction of being the first African American President Pro Tempore of the Senate (1971), Minority Leader (1973), and President of the Senate (1975). Corneal A. Davis was the first Assistant Minority Leader (1971) and Assistant Majority Leader (1975).

Fred J. Smith and Corneal A. Davis each spent 36 years in the General Assembly. Smith spent 12 years in the House and 24 years in the Senate; Davis's entire career was in the House.

*(continued on p. 6)*



Cecil Partee



Harold Washington



Emil Jones, Jr.

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# Cecil Partee Biography and Oral History

Cecil A. Partee was born April 10, 1921, in Blytheville, Arkansas. The story of his youth is typical of black middle class life in Blytheville during the 1920's and 1930's. After completing his undergraduate work at Tennessee State University, he was denied entry to law school at the University of Arkansas. Instead, the state of Arkansas paid his tuition at Northwestern University where he attained his law degree.

Upon admission to the Illinois bar, Mr. Partee started practice in Chicago. With the idea of widening contacts for his practice, he requested committeeman William L. Dawson to assign him a precinct. This precinct captain assignment started his long-term association with the regular Democratic organization in Chicago. He was soon offered, and in 1948 accepted, a position as an assistant state's attorney.

In 1955, two significant events occurred. First, he married Paris Angelina Bradley, and second, reapportionment increased Chicago's representation in the Illinois General Assembly. Mr. Partee was asked if he would run in 1956 for one of the new positions in the House of Representatives. He did so and continued in the House for five sessions (1957-1967), then moved on to serve five sessions in the Senate, (1967-1977). While in the Senate, during the 77th through 79th General Assemblies when the Democrats held majorities, he served as the first African American President Pro Tempore of the Senate (1971), Minority Leader (1973), and Senate President (1975).

According to his obituary in the Chicago Sun-Times, he became the state's first black governor—for a day. "Under the old Illinois Constitution, whenever the governor was out of the state, the lieutenant governor became the governor and the next person in line was the president of the state Senate," said U.S. Senator Paul Simon. "Once when Governor Richard Ogilvie was out of the state, I purpose-

ly went across the river to Saint Louis so that Cecil Partee became governor, the first African American to serve as governor of our state, but only for one day."

Mr. Partee was the 1976 Democratic nominee for attorney general, but lost to Republican William Scott. He was named commissioner of Chicago's Human Services Department and served until 1979, when he was elected city treasurer. He was city treasurer until 1989, when he was appointed state's attorney after Richard M. Daley was elected mayor. He ran in a 1990 special election to fill the remaining two years of the term, but lost to Republican Jack O'Malley.

Cecil Partee died of lung cancer August 16, 1994, and was survived by his wife Paris; two daughters, Paris and Cecile, and two granddaughters.

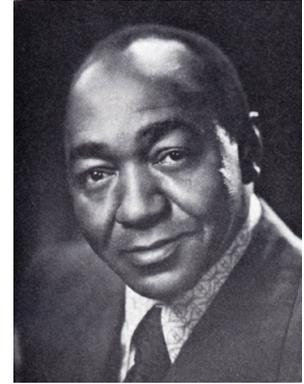
## Cecil Partee Oral History

### Boyhood and Education

Q: What was life like in Blytheville, Arkansas when you were quite young?

A: Well, it was just a small town when I was quite young. By 1930, when I was nine, it was a town of six thousand people. It was, in one sense, progressive. They had the first radio station in Arkansas, even including Little Rock and all the larger towns. It was segregated and we had a school. You went to school and you went to church and many of your teachers were also people who taught in the church.

The church offered a lot of opportunities to participate in plays or to say speeches. We had programs on Mother's Day, on Christmas, on Thanksgiving. Had three or four programs a year at the church where you would have an opportunity to say a poem or something that was appropriate for that particular holiday.



I got involved quite young in what has turned out to be public speaking. They used to have what they called oratorical contests and when I was six years of age I was taught and said, in one of the contests, Longfellow's "A Psalm of Life," which is about an eight-stanza poem which I was able to do at six. They had this oratorical contest and I said that poem and a girl said a poem called, "Is It Because I'm Nobody's Child?" The girl was given first place and I was given second place and two persons contested the judges' decision and, as a consequence, they gave both of us first place. One of those two persons was a black lawyer.

It was the very first time I had ever met a lawyer who was black. I suppose—it might have been the first time I ever really met a lawyer, I'm not sure. It was very interesting to me. He took an interest in me and the next day he took me down to his office and introduced me to various people. So, I guess, really, that was the first time I had seen a lawyer and I guess maybe in the back of my mind that has always stuck out.

A: I always wanted to be a doctor, that was my plan.

Q: Oh? A physician?

A: A physician, yes. I found out one day that I had no chemistry for blood and illness and I hated to be around people when they were sick because I didn't feel I could do enough for them. So I abandoned the notion of being a doctor.

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I really went into business because I had wanted to be an actuary, because I did very well in math and all.

After I started debating and started doing very well in the debating, it was suggested to me by one of my history professors that maybe I ought to consider going to law school. My roommate was a fellow who came to school saying he wanted to be a lawyer and so we got to talking about it again and I then decided probably that would be the way I would go. I would go to law school.

Q: How did you decide on Northwestern?

A: Well, I had made an application to both the University of Chicago and Northwestern and had been accepted at each on the basis of my college grades.

Q: And you had a scholarship that you could use at both these schools?

A: Well. Yes. The scholarship would be paid by the University of Arkansas and it would cover tuition at both schools.

Q: It would seem they would do that for their own school in Arkansas, but they chose Illinois? Or allowed you to choose Illinois?

A: No, what they did was—the scholarship came as a result of their obviating my attendance at the University of Arkansas. You see, at the time, the University of Arkansas was an all-white school. And they experienced no anxiety to have any black students. But they said, “You can go somewhere else and we’ll pay your tuition.” So I came to Northwestern and they paid my tuition. At Northwestern they gave me a job in the library that paid my tuition. So they gave me that in cash, you see. They just gave me—I think the tuition was maybe, oh, three or four hundred dollars a semester, something like that. So I just got cash for that.

I worked on the weekends. I waited table (sic) in nightclubs on the weekends. So I went to day-school and

they had an accelerated course over there. I went to school forty-eight weeks a year so I finished Northwestern eight days short of two calendar years.

### **Assistant State’s Attorney Then Legislator**

Q: While you were still at the university in school, had you started working or figuring out what you were going to do with your law degree when you got it?

A: [D]uring my final days at Northwestern, we went over to the court building, and I met a man who was trying a case there that we observed and he said he would like for me to come down and talk to him at his office. He might want to have me work for him. His name was Joseph Clayton. As soon as I got out of school, I started to work for him. You see, we got out of school in September, I guess, and we took the bar examination in early November and I worked for him from early November up through January before being sworn in.

Q: Then what did you do in January?

A: Then I just started practicing with him as a lawyer in his office. Handling some of his cases and began to get a few of my own and started practicing. Well, I was there for about a year. Then they asked me to be an assistant state’s attorney.

Q: You say, “they.” Who were “they” that asked you to become assistant.

A: Oh, a judge came to me. I had joined a political organization. I had gone in to see Congressman Dawson and told him that I wanted to become a precinct committeeman, and he says, “Why? Do you want a job?” I said, “No, sir, I don’t want a job.” He says, “You’re a lawyer. You went to my school, Northwestern.” I said, “Yes.” He said, “Well, you’re kind of strange.” And he called a lot of fellows in and he said, “I want you to meet a very strange animal. Here’s a fellow who’s different. Most lawyers

want a job and no precinct, and here’s a guy who wants a precinct and no job.”

He said, “Well, why do you want a precinct?” I said, “Well, you see, I’m not from here, I don’t know a lot of people here, I’m trying to get to know a lot of people. If I had a precinct, I would know 500 people by their first name and 500 people would know me by my first name. And that would give me some start towards getting known in this city.”

So I took a precinct. Now, I had had the precinct for a year before they called me in and asked me, they said, “Well, now you said you didn’t want a job but here’s a very nice opportunity for you as an assistant state’s attorney.” So I became an assistant state’s attorney.

Q: Where was the precinct?

A: The precinct was at 62nd and St. Lawrence and Champlain.

Q: What were the major issues—your platform at that time?

A: Well, at that time we were very, very interested in trying to pass some legislation for fair employment practices, number one. That was one of the big issues. The other was civil rights and public accommodation, because you have got to remember in 1957 that was before the 1965 civil rights bill came down from the federal government and there were many places in Illinois where you were not accorded your civil rights. As a matter of fact, when I went to Springfield in 1947 to be sworn in as an attorney, I could not eat at the same hotel with the other lawyers being sworn in. They had it in the Abraham Lincoln Hotel and we were not admitted.

Q: Oh?

A: We were not invited to the hotel for the dinner with our class. And I lived long enough to be invited to make the principal speech to a similar class in Springfield. Some five or six years ago, I was invited to be the principal speaker at the luncheon for the

*(continued on p. 14)*

# Harold Washington Biography

Harold Washington was born in Chicago on April 15, 1922. He attended DuSable High School and earned his B.A. in political science and economics from Roosevelt College, now Roosevelt University. He married Nancy Dorothy Finch in 1942. He was called to active duty in 1943. Assigned to the 1887th Engineer Aviation Battallion, he rose to the rank of First Sergeant. He spent three years in the South Pacific, receiving the Meritorious Service Unit Award for building a bomber landing strip in 20 days. He was honorably discharged in 1946. In 1950, he and his wife divorced without children.

After attaining his J.D. from Northwestern University Law School in 1952, he practiced at his father's law firm, Washington and Washington. One author has said that the "bond between Washington and his father was extraordinarily warm and firm. The mayor had a relationship with his father that many fathers dream of but few achieve." Washington himself said that his father was his "one and only hero in life."

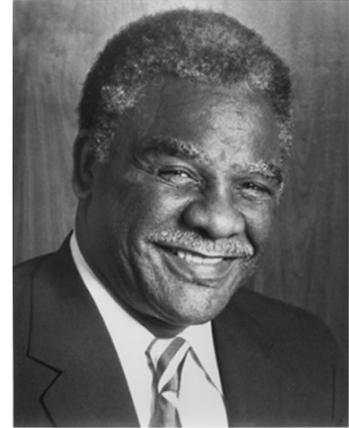
After his father's death in 1953, he joined the Chicago Third Ward Democratic organization, taking over his

father's precinct. He served as Assistant City Prosecutor for the City of Chicago from 1954-58 and as an arbitrator with the Illinois Industrial Commission from 1960-64.

He was elected to the Illinois House, serving from 1965-1977 and then the Illinois Senate from 1977-1981. He was chairperson of the Illinois House Judiciary I Committee and the Senate Public Health, Welfare and Corrections Committee. He served in the United States Congress from 1981-1983, representing the first district.

In 1983, he won the Democratic primary election for Chicago mayor, defeating incumbent mayor Jane M. Byrne plus Richard M. Daley, Sheila Jones, William R. Markowski, and Frank R. Ranallo. He won the general election with 52% of the vote, becoming the first African American Mayor of Chicago. He defeated Jane Byrne again in the 1987 Democratic primary and won the general election with 53% of the vote for a second term.

Robert McClory, a former reporter for the Chicago *Defender*, described the Mayor as a "remarkable man of paradoxes and enigmas" who at times



"seems as wise as a serpent and at others as simple as a dove." As mayor, his accomplishments included creating the Ethics Commission, increasing minority business contracts, and opening the city's budget process for public input and participation. The Mayor died of a heart attack at his desk in City Hall on November 25, 1987. At the time of his death, he was engaged to Mary Ella Smith.

Sources: Illinois Secretary of State, *Illinois Blue Book 1975-76*, p. 123 and *Illinois Blue Book 1981-82*, p. 43; Green ed., et al., *The Mayors - The Chicago Political Tradition*, "Harold Washington: The Enigma of the Black Political Tradition" by William J. Grimshaw, p. 179-180, 188; Chicago Public Library, "Facts About Harold Washington - 42nd Mayor of Chicago" (downloaded from Chicago Public Library's Internet site). □



**African American Democrats in the 77th Illinois General Assembly.** In front row (L to R): Senators Charles Chew, Jr., Kenneth Hall, Cecil A. Partee, Richard H. Newhouse, and Fred J. Smith. Second row: Representatives Lewis A. Caldwell, Richard A. Carter, James A. McLendon, Robert L. Thompson, Corneal A. Davis, and James Y. Cater. Back row: Representatives Raymond W. Ewell, James C. Taylor, Isaac R. Sims, Eugene M. Barnes, Harold Washington, and Otis G. Collins.

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# Emil Jones, Jr. Biography

Emil Jones, Jr. is currently the senior African American member of the General Assembly. He was elected to the House in 1972 and to the Senate in 1982. He was elected President of the Senate in 2003, only the second African American to hold this position, after Cecil Partee.

The Honorable Emil Jones, Jr. has been a member of the Illinois General Assembly since 1973. He is an independent-minded and progressive legislator with a solid reputation of fairness and advocacy for not only the disadvantaged, but for all citizens of Illinois. Senator Jones is a strong proponent of social justice, and fair and adequate funding of public education in Illinois.

On January 12, 2005, Emil Jones, Jr. received the unanimous support of the members of the Senate Democratic Caucus to be elected Senate President in the 94th General Assembly, his second term as the Senate's chief presiding officer. Illinois Supreme Court Justice Charles Freeman administered the oath of office to Senate President Emil Jones, Jr. as his family, friends and colleagues witnessed the event.

Elected to the Senate in 1982, President Jones is currently a member of the Senate Executive Committee. As a member of the Illinois House of Representatives from 1973 to 1983, he served as an Assistant Democratic Leader and Chairman of the Insurance Committee.

President Jones has been a strong supporter of education issues throughout his service in the Illinois General Assembly. One of his proudest legislative accomplishments was proposing and passing the continuing appropriation, or entitlement for education, similar to Social Security on the national level. The proposal increased per pupil spending for school districts throughout the state. He has also

sponsored and supported legislation that would dedicate 50 percent of all new revenue to education. President Jones also passed into law legislation that directed millions of state dollars for disadvantaged public school students to classroom needs, rather than administrative needs.

President Jones also fought for and passed legislation to double the personal exemption on the state income tax to benefit working families. Prior to the passage of this bill in 1998, the personal exemption for Illinois taxpayers had not been increased since 1969.

For his legislative and community endeavors, President Jones has received numerous awards from educational, business, and labor organizations, among others.

A 1953 graduate of Chicago's Tilden Technical High School, President Jones graduated from Loop Junior College. He attended Roosevelt University, majoring in Business Administration, where he received the Doctorate of Humane Letters Honoris Causa Degree in 2004. President Jones received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree at Chicago State University for his considerable contributions to public service and promoting greater educational opportunities at Chicago State. In 2004 he was named to the Board of Directors of the Forum of Senate Presidents, an organization of nationwide Senate Presidents in the U.S. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the State Legislative Leaders Foundation. Also in 2004, President Jones was inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society of Harold Washington College.

He is a life-long resident of Chicago's South Side, and he is a member of Holy Name of Mary Church, the



Knights of St. Peter Claver, the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, Board of Directors of the State Legislative Leaders Foundation and the Shriners. He is a 32nd degree Mason and a former Boy Scout Master.

Senator Jones has four children and is married to Dr. Lorrie Jones. □

## African American Legislators in Illinois, 1876-2005

(continued from p. 1)

Emil Jones, Jr. is currently the senior African American member of the General Assembly. He was elected to the House in 1972, and to the Senate in 1982. He was elected President of the Senate in 2003. Wyvetter H. Younge of East St. Louis, the senior African American representative, has served there since her election in 1974.

The number of African Americans serving in the General Assembly has been approximately constant since 1970, but the numbers became propor-

tionately higher after the reduction in the size of the House in 1983. From 1957 to 1982 the House had 177 members and the Senate 59. The 21 African Americans elected in 1980 were 8.9% of legislators—8.5% in the House (15 members) and 10.2% in the Senate (6 members). After the reduction in the size of the House to 118 members in 1983, African Americans made up 11.9% of both the House and the Senate until 1993. In that year their percentage declined in the House to 10.2% but rose in the Senate to 13.6% (overall 11.2%). In 2006 there are 9 African Americans (15.3%) in the Senate, and 19 (16.1%) in the House, for a combined percentage of 15.8%, compared to 15.1% African

Americans in the Illinois population generally.

Table 1 lists African American legislators, their districts, and the years of the General Assemblies in which they served. Table 2 shows how many African Americans served in each General Assembly since 1876. Table 3 lists the number of General Assemblies served by each legislator. Table 4, which is not printed here due to its length, lists leadership positions they held. It may be found on our website at: [http://www.ilga.gov/commission/lru/lru\\_home.html](http://www.ilga.gov/commission/lru/lru_home.html).

**Table 1: African American Legislators in Illinois, 1876-2005** (*italics denote current membership*)

<i>Name (party)</i>	<i>Year first elected or appointed</i>	<i>Years of service</i>	<i>District(s)</i>
<b>SENATE</b>			
Chew, Charles Jr. (D)	1966	1967-83; 1983-85	29th; 16th
<i>Clayborne, James F. Jr. (D)</i>	1995	1995-	57th
Collins, Earlean (D)	1976	1977-83; 1983-93	21st; 9th;
		1993-1999	4th
<i>Collins, Jacqueline Y. (D)</i>	2002	2003-	16th
<i>Hendon, Rickey R. (D)</i>	1992	1993-	5th
<i>Hunter, Mattie (D)</i>	2003	2003-	3rd
Jefferies, Elga L. (D)	2002	2002-2003	3rd
<i>Lightford, Kimberly (D)</i>	1998	1998-	4th
<i>Meeks, James T. (Independent)</i>	2002	2003-	15th
Newhouse, Richard H. (D)	1966	1967-83; 1983-91	24th; 13th
Obama, Barack (D)	1996	1997-2004	13th
Palmer, Alice J. (D)	1991	1991-1996	13th
<i>Raoul, Kwame (D)</i>	2004	2004-	13th
Wallace, William A. (D)	1938	1939-43	3rd
Wimbish, Christopher C. (D)	1942	1943-55	3rd
<b>BOTH HOUSES</b>			
Alexander, Ethel S. (D)	1978H	1979-83; 1983-86	26th; 32nd
	1986S	1986-93	16th
Brookins, Howard B. (D)	1982H	1983-87	36th
	1986S	1987-93	18th
Hall, Kenneth (D)	1966H	1967-71	56th
	1970S	1971-73; 1973-95	54th; 57th
<i>Jones, Emil Jr. (D)</i>	1972H	1973-83	28th
	1982S	1983-93; 1993-	17th; 14th

<i>Name (party)</i>	<i>Year first elected or appointed</i>	<i>Years of service</i>	<i>District(s)</i>
King, William E. (R)	1924H	1925-27; 1929-33	3rd
	1934S	1935-39	3rd
McLendon, James A. (D)	1964H	1965-67; 1969-73	24th;
	1978S	1973-79	22nd
Partee, Cecil A. (D)	1956H	1979-83	34th
	1966S	1957-59; 1959-1967	22nd; 21st
Roberts, Adelbert H. (R)	1918H	1967-77	26th
	1924S	1919-25	3rd
Shaw, William "Bill" (D)	1982H	1925-35	3rd
	1992S	1983-93	34th
Smith, Fred J. (D)	1942H	1993-2003	15th
	1954S	1943-55	3rd
Smith, Margaret (D)	1980H	1955-57; 1957-67	3rd; 11th
	1982S	1967-1979	22nd
Taylor, James C. (D)	1968H	1981-83	22nd
	1980S	1983-93; 1993-2002	12th; 3rd
Trotter, Donne E. (D)	1988H	1969-81	26th
	1992S	1981-83	26th
Washington, Harold (D)	1964H	1983-85	31st
	1976S	1989-93	25th
	1992S	1993-2003; 2003-	16th; 17th
		1965-77	26th
		1977-81	26th

## HOUSE

Armstrong, Charles F. (D)	1956	1957-65	22nd
Bailey, Patricia (D)	2002	2003-2005	6th
Barnes, Eugene M. (D)	1970	1971-73; 1973-80	28th; 29th
Bish, James E. (R)	1892	1893-95	3rd
Blackwell, George W. (R)	1928	1929-33	1st
Boswell, Paul P. (R)	1964	1965-67	*
Braun, Carol Moseley (D)	1978	1979-83; 1983-89	24th; 25th
Buckner, John C. (R)	1894	1895-97	5th
Bullock, Larry S. (D)	1978	1979-83; 1983-87	22nd; 23rd
Caldwell, Lewis A.H. (D)	1966	1967-73; 1973-79	29th; 24th
Carter, James Y. (D)	1936	1937-39; 1957-67	3rd; 21st
		1967-1973	22nd
Carter, Richard A. (D)	1970	1971-73; 1973-75	19th; 20th
Clements, Floy (D)	1958	1959-61	22nd
Collins, Annazette (D)	2000	2001-	10th
Collins, Otis G. (D)	1964	1965-73	21st
Connor, Lycurgus J. (D)	1960	1961-65	22nd
Colvin, Marlow H. (D)	2001	2001-	33rd
Davis, Corneal A. (D)	1942	1943-57; 1957-1967	1st; 20th
		1967-79	22nd
Davis, Monique (D)	1986	1987-93; 1993-	36th; 27th
Davis, William (D)	2002	2003-	30th

(continued on p. 8)

Table 1: African American Legislators in Illinois, 1876-2005 (italics denote current membership) (Cont'd)

<i>Name (party)</i>	<i>Year first elected or appointed</i>	<i>Years of service</i>	<i>District(s)</i>
Douglas, Warren B. (R)	1918	1919-23; 1925-29	3rd
<i>Dunkin, Kenneth (D)</i>	2002	2003-	5th
Ecton, George F. (R)	1886	1887-89	3rd
Ewell, Raymond W. (D)	1966	1967-83	29th
<i>Flowers, Mary E. (D)</i>	1984	1985-93; 1993-2003 2003-	31st; 21st 31st
Gaines, Charles E. (R)	1974	1975-81	29th
Gaines, Harris B. (R)	1930	1931-37	1st
Gardner, J. Horace (R)	1956	1957-65; 1967-73	21st; 26th
<i>Giles, Calvin L. (D)</i>	1993	1993-	8th
<i>Golar, Esther (D)</i>	2005	2005-	6th
Goodwin, Quentin J. (D)	1978	1979-81	22nd
<i>Graham Deborah L. (D)</i>	2002	2003-	78th
Graham, Elwood (R)	1956	1957-65; 1967-73	22nd; 29th
Green, Edward D. (R)	1904	1905-07; 1911-13	1st
Greene, Ernest A. (R)	1936	1937-45; 1955-57	1st
Griffin, Charles A. (R)	1924	1925-29	1st
Harewood, Richard A. (D)	1936	1937-39; 1957-59	3rd; 20th
Harris, Willis (D)	1998	1999-2001	29th
Henry, William C. (D)	1979	1979-83; 1983-85	21st; 18th
Holloway, Robert H. (R)	1972	1973-75	29th
<i>Howard, Constance A. (D)</i>	1994	1995-2003; 2003-	32nd; 34th
Huff, Douglas Jr. (D)	1974	1975-83; 1983-88	29th; 19th
Hutchins, Ozie (D)	1982	1983-85	17th
Jackson, Jesse (R)	1980	1981-83	29th
Jackson, Robert R. (R)	1912	1913-19	3rd
<i>Jefferson, Charles E. (D)</i>	2001	2001-	67th
Jenkins, Charles J. (R)	1930	1931-55	3rd
Jones, John G. (R)	1900	1901-03	5th
<i>Jones, Lovana S. (D)</i>	1986	1986-93; 1993-2003 2003-	23rd; 5th 26th
Jones, Shirley M. (D)	1988	1988-93; 1993-2003	19th; 6th
<i>Kelly, Robin (D)</i>	2002	2003-	38th
Kenner, Howard A. (D)	1994	1995-2003	24th
Kersey, George T. (R)	1922	1923-25; 1927-31	3rd
Lane, Alexander (R)	1906	1907-11	1st
LeFlore, Robert J. (D)	1982	1983-93; 1993-95	15th; 8th
Lucas, Benjamin H. (R)	1916	1917-19	1st
Madison, Jesse D. (D)	1974	1975-79	21st
Markette, Sharon (D)	1983	1983-85	17th
Martin, Dudley S. (R)	1940	1941-43	3rd
Martin, Peggy Smith (D)	1972	1973-75; 1977-79	26th
Martin, William L. (R)	1898	1899-1901	5th
McNairy, Melvin (D)	1964	1965-67	*
<i>Miller, David E. (D)</i>	2000	2001-	29th
Moore, Eugene (D)	1993	1993-1999	7th
Morris, Edward H. (R)	1890	1891-93; 1903-05	1st; 3rd

<i>Name (party)</i>	<i>Year first elected or appointed</i>	<i>Years of service</i>	<i>District(s)</i>
Morrow, Charles G. (D)	1986	1986-93; 1993-2003 2003-2005	32nd; 26th 32nd
Murphy, Harold (D)	1993	1993-2003	30th
Patrick, Langdon W. (D)	1972	1973-77; 1979-81	21st
<i>Patterson, Milton (D)</i>	2004	2005-	32nd
Pelt, Owen D. (D)	1966	1967-69	26th
Pouncey, Taylor (I)	1974	1975-83; 1983	26th; 31st
Pugh, Coy (D)	1993	1993-2001	10th
Rice, Nelson, Sr. (D)	1982	1983-93	33rd
Rhem, Sylvester (D)	1981	1981-83; 1983-85	26th; 24th
Robinson, William H. (D)	1954	1955-65	20th
Sharp, Wanda (D)	1999	1999-2001	7th
Shumpert, Walter (D)	1976	1977-79	21st
Sims, Isaac R. (D)	1966	1967-73; 1973-75	19th; 21st
Skyles, Charles M. (D)	1944	1945-57	5th
Smith, Aubrey H. (D)	1934	1935-37	49th
Smith, Calvin L. (D)	1964	1965-69	24th
Stewart, Monica Faith (D)	1980	1981-83	29th
Stroger, Todd H. (D)	1993	1993-2003	31st
Thomas, John W.E. (R)	1876	1877-79; 1883-1887	2nd; 3rd
Thompson, Robert L. (D)	1968	1969-73; 1973-75	12th; 13th
Torrence, Andrew A. (R)	1938	1939-40	3rd
<i>Turner, Arthur L. (D)</i>	1980	1981-83; 1983-93 1993-	21st; 18th 9th
Turner, Sheadrick B. (R)	1914	1915-17; 1919-29	1st
Warfield, William J. (R)	1928	1929-45	5th
<i>Washington, Eddie (D)</i>	2002	2003-	60th
Washington, Genoa S. (R)	1966	1967-73	22nd
Washington, Jerry (D)	1984	1985-87	24th
Welters, Edward A. (R)	1944	1945-49	1st
White, Jesse C. Jr. (D)	1974	1975-77; 1979-83 1983-1993	13th 8th
Williams, Paul (D)	1986	1987-93	24th
Williamson, Clarence B. (D)	1980	1980-81	29th
Wilson, Kenneth E. (D)	1954	1955-57; 1957-65	5th; 21st
<i>Yarbrough, Karen (D)</i>	2000	2001-	7th
Young, Anthony L. (D)	1984	1985-93	17th
<i>Younge, Wyvetter H. (D)</i>	1974	1975-83; 1983-93 1993-	57th; 113th 114th

\* No districts are shown for the 74th General Assembly (elected in 1964), because all members of that General Assembly were elected from the state at large due to failure to divide the state into districts.

Sources: Compiled by Legislative Research Unit from Harold F. Gosnell, *Negro Politicians: The Rise of Negro Politics in Chicago* (1934), pp. 375-76; listing from Illinois State Historical Library titled "Negro Legislators in Illinois, 1934-1964;" *Illinois Blue Books; Handbooks of the Illinois General Assembly* and General Assembly Internet site.

**Table 2: Number of African American Legislators by General Assembly**

<i>Year elected</i>	<i>G.A.</i>	<i>House</i>	<i>Senate</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Year elected</i>	<i>G.A.</i>	<i>House</i>	<i>Senate</i>	<i>Total</i>
1818-1874	1st-29th	0	0	0	1938	61st	4	1	5
1876	30th	1	0	1	1940	62nd	4	1	5
1878	31st	0	0	0	1942	63rd	5	1	6
1880	32nd	0	0	0	1944	64th	5	1	6
1882	33rd	1	0	1	1946	65th	5	1	6
1884	34th	1	0	1	1948	66th	4	1	5
1886	35th	1	0	1	1950	67th	4	1	5
1888	36th	1	0	1	1952	68th	4	1	5
1890	37th	1	0	1	1954	69th	6	1	7
1892	38th	1	0	1	1956	70th	9	1	10
1894	39th	1	0	1	1958	71st	9	1	10
1896	40th	0	0	0	1960	72nd	9	1	10
1898	41st	1	0	1	1962	73rd	9	1	10
1900	42nd	1	0	1	1964	74th	10	1	11
1902	43rd	1	0	1	1966	75th	13	4	17
1904	44th	1	0	1	1968	76th	14	4	18
1906	45th	1	0	1	1970	77th	15	5	20
1908	46th	1	0	1	1972	78th	14	5	19
1910	47th	1	0	1	1974	79th	15	5	20
1912	48th	1	0	1	1976	80th	14	6	20
1914	49th	2	0	2	1978	81st	17*	6	23*
1916	50th	2	0	2	1980	82nd	16*	6	22*
1918	51st	3	0	3	1982	83rd	17*	6	23*
1920	52nd	3	0	3	1984	84th	16*	7*	23*
1922	53rd	3	0	3	1986	85th	14	7	21
1924	54th	4	1	5	1988	86th	14	7	21
1926	55th	4	1	5	1990	87th	14	7	21
1928	56th	4	1	5	1992	88th	13*	8	21*
1930	57th	5	1	6	1994	89th	14	9*	23*
1932	58th	4	1	5	1996	90th	14	8	22
1934	59th	5	1	6	1998	91st	16*	8	24*
1936	60th	5	1	6	2000	92nd	15	8	23
					2002	93rd	19	9*	28
					2004	94th	19*	9	28

\* In 1978, 15 African Americans were elected and 2 others filled vacancies caused by resignations of other African Americans. In 1980, 15 African Americans were elected and 1 filled a vacancy caused by a resignation of another African American. In 1982, 14 African Americans were elected and 3 filled vacancies caused by the resignation of 3 African Americans. In 1984, 14 African Americans were elected to the House and 2 were appointed to fill vacancies. Ethel Skyles Alexander was elected as a representative but was later appointed senator. She is counted once for each office, but only once in the total. In the 88th and 89th General Assemblies 1 African American was appointed to fill a vacancy caused by the death of another African American. In the 91st General Assembly Annazette Collins filled a vacancy caused by the resignation of Representative Coy Pugh. In the 93rd General Assembly Kwame Raoul was appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the election of Senator Barack Obama to the U.S. Senate. In the 94th General Assembly Esther Golar was appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Patricia Bailey, which kept the number in the House constant.

Sources: Compiled by Legislative Research Unit staff from Harold F. Gosnell, *Negro Politicians: The Rise of Negro Politics in Chicago* (1934), pp. 375-76; listing from Illinois State Historical Library titled, "Negro Legislators in Illinois, 1934-1964;" *Illinois Blue Books; Handbooks of the Illinois General Assembly*, and General Assembly Internet site.

**Table 3: Number of General Assemblies Served by African American Legislators, 1876-2005 (*italics denote current members*)**

Name (party)	General Assemblies in which served		
	Senate	House	Total
Davis, Corneal A. (D)	—	18	18
Smith, Fred J. (D)	12	6	18
<i>Jones, Emil Jr. (D)</i>	12	5	17
<i>Younge, Wyvetter H. (D)</i>	—	16	16
Hall, Kenneth (D)	13	2	15
Newhouse, Richard H. (D)	13	—	13
<i>Turner, Arthur L. (D)</i>	—	13	13
Jenkins, Charles J. (R)	—	12	12
Collins, Earlean (D)	11	—	11
<i>Flowers, Mary E. (D)</i>	—	11	11
<i>Jones, Lovana S. (D)</i>	—	11	11
Smith, Margaret (D)	10	1	11
Carter, James Y. (D)	—	10	10
Chew, Charles Jr. (D)	10	—	10
Morrow, Charles G. (D)	—	10	10
Partee, Cecil A. (D)	5	5	10
Shaw, William “Bill” (D)	5	5	10
<i>Davis, Monique D. (D)</i>	—	10	10
<i>Trotter, Donne (D)</i>	7	2	9
Alexander, Ethel Skyles (D)	4	4	8
Ewell, Raymond W. (D)	—	8	8
Jones, Shirley M. (D)	—	8	8
McLendon, James A. (D)	2	6	8
Roberts, Adelbert H. (R)	5	3	8
Taylor, James C. (D)	1	7	8
Warfield, William J. (R)	—	8	8
Washington, Harold (D)	2	6	8
White, Jesse C. Jr. (D)	—	8	8
Gardner, J. Horace (R)	—	7	7
<i>Giles, Calvin L. (D)</i>	—	7	7
Graham, Elwood (R)	—	7	7
<i>Hendon, Rickey R. (D)</i>	7	—	7
Huff, Douglas Jr. (D)	—	7	7
Caldwell, Lewis A.H. (D)	—	6	6
<i>Clayborne, James F. Jr. (D)</i>	6	—	6
<i>Howard, Constance A. “Connie” (D)</i>	—	6	6
King, William E. (R)	2	4	6
LeFlore, Robert Jr. (D)	—	6	6
Skyles, Charles M. (D)	—	6	6
Turner, Sheadrick B. (R)	—	6	6
Wimbish, Christopher C. (D)	6	—	6

Table 3: Number of General Assemblies Served by African American Legislators, 1876-2005 (italics denote current members) (cont'd)

<i>Name (party)</i>	<i>General Assemblies in which served</i>		
	<i>Senate</i>	<i>House</i>	<i>Total</i>
Armstrong, Charles F. (D)	—	5	5
Barnes, Eugene M. (D)	—	5	5
Braun, Carol Moseley (D)	—	5	5
Brookins, Howard B. (D)	3	2	5
Douglas, Warren B. (R)	—	5	5
Greene, Ernest A. (R)	—	5	5
<i>Lightford, Kimberly (D)</i>	5	—	5
Murphy, Harold (D)	—	5	5
Pouncey, Taylor (I)	—	5	5
Rice, Nelson Sr. (D)	—	5	5
Robinson, William H. (D)	—	5	5
Stroger, Todd H. (D)	—	5	5
Wilson, Kenneth E. (D)	—	5	5
Bullock, Larry S. (D)	—	4	4
Collins, Otis G. (D)	—	4	4
Kenner, Howard A. (D)	—	4	4
Moore, Eugene (D)	—	4	4
Obama, Barack (D)	4	—	4
Pugh, Coy (D)	—	4	4
Sims, Isaac R. (D)	—	4	4
Young, Anthony L. (D)	—	4	4
<i>Collins, Annazette (D)</i>	—	3	3
<i>Colvin, Marlow H. (D)</i>	—	3	3
Gaines, Charles E. (R)	—	3	3
Gaines, Harris B. (R)	—	3	3
Henry, William C. (D)	—	3	3
Jackson, Robert R. (R)	—	3	3
<i>Jefferson, Charles E. (D)</i>	—	3	3
Kersey, George T. (R)	—	3	3
<i>Miller, David E. (D)</i>	—	3	3
Palmer, Alice J. (D)	3	—	3
Patrick, Langdon W. (D)	—	3	3
Thomas, John W.E. (R)	—	3	3
Thompson, Robert L. (D)	—	3	3
Washington, Genoa S. (R)	—	3	3
Williams, Paul L. (D)	—	3	3
<i>Yarbrough, Karen (D)</i>	—	3	3
Bailey, Patricia (D)	—	2	2
Blackwell, George W. (R)	—	2	2
Carter, Richard A. (D)	—	2	2
<i>Collins, Jacqueline (D)</i>	2	—	2
Connor, Lycurgus J. (D)	—	2	2
<i>Davis, William (D)</i>	—	2	2
<i>Dunkin, Kenneth (D)</i>	—	2	2
Ecton, George F. (R)	—	2	2
<i>Graham, Deborah L. (D)</i>	—	2	2
Green, Edward D. (R)	—	2	2
Griffin, Charles A. (R)	—	2	2
Harewood, Richard A. (D)	—	2	2
<i>Hunter, Mattie (D)</i>	2	—	2
<i>Kelly, Robin (D)</i>	—	2	2

Name (party)	General Assemblies in which served		
	Senate	House	Total
Lane, Alexander (R)	—	2	2
Madison, Jesse D. (D)	—	2	2
Martin, Peggy Smith (D)	—	2	2
Meeks, James T. (I)	2	—	2
Morris, Edward H. (R)	—	2	2
Raoul, Kwame (D)	—	2	2
Rhem, Sylvester (D)	—	2	2
Shumpert, Walter (D)	—	2	2
Smith, Calvin L. (D)	—	2	2
Wallace, William A. (D)	2	—	2
Washington, Eddie (D)	—	2	2
Welters, Edward A. (R)	—	2	2
Bish, James E. (R)	—	1	1
Boswell, Paul P. (R)	—	1	1
Buckner, John C. (R)	—	1	1
Clements, Floy (D)	—	1	1
Golar, Esther (D)	—	1	1
Goodwin, Quentin J. (D)	—	1	1
Harris, Willis (D)	—	1	1
Holloway, Robert E. (R)	—	1	1
Hutchins, Ozie (D)	—	1	1
Jackson, Jesse (R)	—	1	1
Jefferies, Elga L. (D)	1	—	1
Jones, John G. (R)	—	1	1
Lucas, Benjamin H. (R)	—	1	1
Markette, Sharon (D)	—	1	1
Martin, Dudley S. (R)	—	1	1
Martin, William L. (R)	—	1	1
McNairy, Melvin (D)	—	1	1
Patterson, Milton (D)	—	1	1
Pelt, Owen D. (D)	—	1	1
Sharp, Wanda (D)	—	1	1
Smith, Aubrey H. (D)	—	1	1
Stewart, Monica Faith (D)	—	1	1
Torrence, Andrew (R)	—	1	1
Williamson, Clarence B. (D)	—	1	1

Sources: Compiled by Legislative Research Unit from Harold F. Gosnell, *Negro Politicians: The Rise of Negro Politics in Chicago* (1934), pp. 375-76; listing from Illinois State Historical Library titled, "Negro Legislators in Illinois, 1934-1964;" *Illinois Blue Books; Handbooks of the Illinois General Assembly*; and General Assembly Internet site.

Table 4: African American Legislators in Leadership Positions in Illinois, 1876-2005, not printed here due to its length, can be found on our website at: [http://www.ilga.gov/commission/lru/lru\\_home.html](http://www.ilga.gov/commission/lru/lru_home.html)

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## Cecil Partee Oral History *(continued from p. 3)*

new lawyers who were being sworn in. And I told them I thought it was interesting that I would be invited because, when I finished (law school), I was not able to come. And there was a lady in my class named Jewel Lafontant who was also not able to come who became assistant solicitor general of the United States. And I said, “I have a little spot over here. There’s a place across the street over here called the Senate and I’m the president. So, you know, maybe we are making some progress.”

But I also suggested to the black students in that class that, although they were there having dinner and they were accorded their civil rights, there are still a lot of pockets and areas of racism and discrimination and that they had an obligation to work hard toward eliminating it, just as we did the things that we were subjected to. That it was not all over and still isn’t all over.

Q: When it came up that this was a possibility, going to the legislature, why did you accept it?

A: I thought it was a step forward, thought it was a very significant thing to be one of 235 people who made the laws for the state. It was a real attractive kind of thing from that vantage point. It also meant to me that I could go out into the world and practice law because the legislature only met for six months every other year. That meant eighteen months that you would be home practicing law as a private practitioner.

When I first went, you could take your two-year salary at once, so I took the two-year salary because I figured that I would make less money practicing law the first year than the second year, for two reasons. One, I would only be out a year, or a half a year, really. The other being that, the second year, I would have a full year uninterrupted with the legislature to practice law. I did that for a number of years. I would practice law and was in the legislature.

Q: Did you do your own drawing of the bills?

A: No, you sat down with them [Legislative Reference Bureau] across the desk, discussed the idea that you had in mind and you would have somebody rough-draft what you wanted to do or, point-by-point, what you wanted the bill to include, what you wanted it to exclude. And then they would put it in written form for introduction.

Q: Did you have much occasion to use the Legislative Reference Bureau for anything other than the drafting of the bills? [R]esearch?

A: No, we didn’t have that in those days. You did your own research. We didn’t even have a telephone to call home or call your office or anything of that sort. You would just put some money in the phone booth. We didn’t even have credit cards in that day. You just put some quarters or dimes, whatever it took, in there, to do it. No, we didn’t have any help at all. We had no interns, we had no staff, you did it yourself.

Q: So really your office was more or less your hotel room?

A: Your head.

Q: Well! (laughter)

A: Yes, didn’t have any offices. The leaders had offices in those days, the speaker would have an office. Maybe the assistant majority leader and the assistant minority leader, and then the minority leader and the majority leader would each have probably an office, I think they had offices. I don’t really remember that they had offices, to tell you the truth; but I do know the speaker had one and the president of the Senate.

### Community College

Q: Were you active in any other university actions other than Southern Illinois University and the Chicago Circle and Sangamon State?

A: Well, I was very active in the whole junior college program. I was

persuaded towards support of that junior college program for the principal reason that as college expenses became greater, it was very obvious to me that a large number of people would have a very difficult time sending kids away to college, particularly in large families, the cost was so prohibitive. We felt the junior college system would be very much needed because if a kid could stay home and eat and sleep at home the first two years and get that first two years under his belt, by that time he’s a more mature person and it’s easier then for him to help himself, and to work on that last two.

On that same theory, Sangamon State and Governor’s State universities will have that principle, where they start at the junior year and they go through junior, senior and then into the graduate school. It made it a lot easier for a lot more people to get an education.

I just always thought about California. They have been so far ahead of us on the junior college system. You take a fellow like Jackie Robinson. Jackie Robinson only played two years of college football at UCLA. He played the first two years at Compton Junior College. The community college system, the whole thing that made college education more accessible to people with limited funds, it’s just been a great thing.

### Education System

Q: [B]ack in 1957 you were cosponsor on a bill, the primary sponsor was Simon. [H]e submitted a bill which would require superintendents to make sworn statements of nondiscrimination in schools before they would receive state aid. And this was approved. He, also, in 1961, introduced a bill where affidavits would be required. [T]hey were both approved. Does this strike a bell?

A: Yes, it does strike a bell with me. That was one approach that was taken to make certain that those persons most responsible for making certain that the schools were operated on a nondiscrimination basis would have

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some accountability. In asking principals or superintendents to make the statement, either by the first method or the second, would in some measure make certain that that principal would operate the school on a nondiscriminatory basis. That was probably a sort of an opening round in the whole thing of making certain that there would be no school discrimination. There had been and there were many instances where it was provable that there was some discrimination in our school systems. That was one of the ways used to try to avoid it and to stop it.

Q: In regard to grants to non-public schools in 1972, you, and some 20 others introduced a bill to allow these grants. Do you recall?

A: Yes, I do. The bills would benefit principally parochial and Catholic schools. I had the view that if, for example, there were no parochial or there were no Catholic schools, the cost of education of the children who were in those schools would, of course, be borne by the state. And we were always at a crisis situation in providing sufficient dollars for those youngsters who were in public schools. If we had to open up public schools to every single youngster, including those who attended Catholic schools, the bill would have been a great deal more money. So from a practical standpoint, and economic standpoint, I felt it was justified to give some sort of subsidy or some money for the support of our parochial and Catholic schools.

The question, of course, was not that simple. The other side of that question related to the constitutional impact of that question. Whether or not it was within the framework of constitutional province to do that. There is, of course, a very clear part of our constitution in terms of separation of state from religion and there were those who were opposed on the basis that this would be dollars from the state going to support a religion. That, of course, is a question that was litigated many times in our own Supreme Court and in the Supreme Court of the United States. There were approaches to

subsidizing the busing, there were approaches to purchasing and furnishing books. There were several questions in that general area.

Q: Yes. How did you get involved with that bill?

A: Well, just as I've said, I thought that if we could, constitutionally, subsidize a portion of the expenses of the parochial schools, we would be saving a lot of money because it would mean that we would be spending a lot more if they closed, and all of those youngsters had to go into the public school system.

### **Fair Employment Practices**

Q: On the Fair Employment Practices Commission, the effort to get this established went over several years starting in 1953. Evidently Senator Wimbish was very active in 1953 in attempting to get a bill through on this.

A: That was the raw bill that gave us the Fair Employment Practices Act. They had some very definite exclusions. I think originally the bill excluded all employers with less than 100 employees and over the years you'll find a large number of bills whittling it down to 75, then 50, 25, and 15. Eventually, a bill which had been offered many many times passed both the House and the Senate.

I handled a bill in the Senate which gave the Fair Employment Practices Commission initiatory powers which gave it the right on its own to make a complaint for discrimination. Prior to that time, the only avenue for making a discrimination complaint on employment had to come from the individual who was aggrieved by a situation. The idea for the commission to have the power was because the commission had the capability of looking at an entire industry and determining, a great deal more than an individual, whether there was or was not discrimination within that industry. And then they, the members of the commission, could initiate a complaint and not have to rely solely on an individual who had been aggrieved.

That was a very hard fought battle over the years and there was a great deal of resistance to it. But finally we got it passed maybe as late as 1973, or 1974, maybe even 1975.

Q: We have interviewed him (Martin Lohmann) and he was one that was opposed to this because, as he pointed out—and also I found that Senator Arrington had stated—that there were real problems in finding sufficient black people that were educated sufficiently to take some of these jobs. Did you find that to be true?

A: Absolutely not. Absolutely not. There were plenty of black people for the jobs that they were seeking. No, I don't find that to be true at all.

Q: Well, that seemed to be one of the main oppositions to the bill.

A: Well, you see, if that were so, just on the basis of logic, if there were no black people to take the job why would there be any opposition?

Q: Yes, I see. (laughter) Yes, sir, I see.

A: Yes. You're opposed to something because it's a problem to you. If there are no black people to take the jobs involved, there shouldn't be any opposition because there wouldn't be a problem. So I don't buy that at all.

### **Open Housing**

Q: A bill which you introduced with the housing affairs had to do with the Weston nuclear plant, or this came up in regard to getting the bill passed. Do you recall that?

A: Yes, I recall that very well. The federal government was looking for a place to put a large nuclear plant, a plant that would bring a substantial amount of money to Illinois if it were located here. They had designated the site and the government, the federal government that is, had given the impression that unless we passed an open housing law that plant would not be located in Illinois and I was using that as an argument for the passage of

*(continued on p. 16)*

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## Cecil Partee Oral History (continued from p. 15)

an open housing law, so that we could acquire that plant. But that didn't sell. The opposition was so strong they would rather deprive themselves of the dollars than to pass the law.

Q: Yes. I notice there was a bill that was passed to provide the—I think it was thirty million dollars for the purchase of land for the plant.

A: Yes, I might have been strident about the entire committee because I never felt that they ever gave me a fair hearing on it. I thought that when they came in there their minds were made up and they weren't prepared to listen to what the true facts were.

In those days, it's to be remembered, I couldn't even get any newspapers, any editorial comments in favor of fair housing. I went once to Peoria and talked to the editor there who was a man that I considered a very fine man and asked for an editorial in favor of the concept and he told me that he didn't think that people who worked for him and his newspaper would do it on the basis that they didn't believe in the concept. He said they didn't believe in the concept and hence they wouldn't write favorable articles. I said, "Well, I'm not asking that they believe in the concept, but what I'm asking is, 'Do your people have journalistic integrity?'" He says, "You are doggone right they do. They certainly do have journalistic integrity." I said, "Then, if they have journalistic integrity, let them make a survey, since you say they don't need it in Peoria. Let them make a survey of the city of Peoria and I'll abide those results."

So the newspaper people in the Peoria *Journal-Star* made a survey and they didn't write one editorial in favor of open housing, they wrote twelve editorials in favor of open housing and put them in a little booklet called *A House Divided*. I was just more than gratified that they did it. Although they may not have believed in it, they had the journalistic integrity to write what the survey revealed and the survey revealed a real need for open housing in

Peoria which they had initially felt that they didn't need.

### Equal Rights Amendment

Q: You were instrumental in managing the consideration of the Equal Rights Amendment in 1975 and 1976. Do you recall the maneuvering to get the ERA passed?

A: The very first time we offered an ERA bill I think Senator Saperstein was the principal sponsor and I made some speeches for it. And the very first time we handled ERA in the Senate, we passed it. And we passed it along rather simplistic kinds of concepts. The right of a woman to obtain a job, commensurate with her talent and abilities and, two, the right of promotion for that woman when she deserved that promotion. Now, that is simply what my argument was, not a lot of other issues. Then the bill went over to the House and although the House is supposed to be more liberal than the Senate, the bill failed in the House the very first year because, after it got in the House, there were several other issues which were interjected into the debate. There was the issue of abortion, there was the issues of lesbianism, there were issues of a lot of things which were very extrinsic to the basics and purpose for the ERA amendment. As a consequence it failed in the House.

Then, in later years, the bill did get out of the House but by that point the opposition had hardened in the Senate and as a consequence we were never able to pass it. At one point, we were within about four votes of passage. Another thing that complicated its passage was being a part of the constitution we felt that we had to have a two-thirds vote and there were those who felt we could do it with a majority vote. I ruled that we had to have a two-thirds vote and I think that's correct and I still stand by that. Even with a majority vote it might have been very, very close, but I felt that we had to have a two-thirds vote.

At one point after the 1976 election, I received a call from a man whose

name was James Carter. He was the president-elect of the United States and he asked me if I would call the bill and I said I had a hesitancy to do so because I didn't want to get it beaten again, because if I got it beaten one more time, it would probably mean its demise. So rather than holding and waiting until we could perhaps have another election and get some more, and different, senators—he had made a campaign promise during the time he was in Illinois that he would personally see to it getting called again and, as a favor to the president-elect, I told him I would and I did in fact call it. But only after I had had a meeting with all of the ladies of the legislature, both the House and the Senate. I had a meeting with them and I explained to them what my position was, why I was going to do this and that I cautioned against doing it and asked them and it was a consensus of that meeting that I should go ahead and call it despite the fact that we didn't have the votes and we were still about six or seven short in the Senate.

Then some other things intervened. Sometimes people who had voted for it in the Senate caught so much hell when they got back home some of them, backed away. At one point, for a reason that I have always detested, someone got them to offer the ERA amendment in the council in Chicago. I'm not sure whether it passed or didn't pass in Chicago but the thing that was important to me was that there were aldermen in Chicago who voted against it who came from the same areas as senators who voted for it previously. So, after these aldermen, who controlled, I suppose, the politics of the area, had voted against it, then some of the senators who had previously voted for it then became negative votes, because they wanted to be in harmony with the leaders of their area. So, as a result of its being called in Chicago, we lost a couple of votes that we had always had.

Then some other things happened. The ladies then passed some sort of national resolution, the groups, that large corporations and large conventions not have their meetings in Illinois or in any state that had not passed

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the ERA. Then there were people, who were very supportive of ERA, who became annoyed at that tactic and I lost some additional votes.

Of the legislature, we always had about 45 percent of the people voting in the affirmative and the negatives was just a little larger than the affirmatives. So the affirmatives felt that that was a terrible thing to do to them because they too lived in Illinois and they too wanted to see conventions come in and they too wanted the monies, that come in through conventions, to be spent in Illinois with our various businesses. And they felt it was treacherous for the women's groups to say that a state should be denied conventions because it hadn't passed it when almost a majority of those were supportive.

### Chicago Race Riots

Q: Getting back to the fair housing practices commission failure in 1965, Governor Kerner indicated that the fact that this bill was not passed in 1965 had a lot to do with the race riots that occurred in 1966 on the west side in Chicago. Would you agree?

A: Well, let me say that I do not totally agree nor do I totally disagree. I think perhaps a part of the mood of defiance and hostility had at least been born by a part of that discriminatory practice. I think the thing actually that triggered the physical kind of movement that took place was the death of Martin Luther King. And when Martin Luther King was killed, I think some of the latent kind of hostility just burst forth. That is when the riots were, not only here but all over the country, like in Detroit and Los Angeles.

Q: What were your feelings when [the 1966 riots] broke out [in Chicago]? Had you expected them?

A: Well, I don't think I had any ingrained expectancy that the reaction would take that form. I knew a lot of people were very upset and frustrated and angry because of the assassination of Dr. King. I was not in Chicago the night of the assassination. I was in a town in Wisconsin, Madison,

Wisconsin, to be exact. I was there as a member of a lay group of persons who were interested in juvenile delinquency.

I remember coming down to a cocktail party just before dinner when I was first informed of the death. We saw it on the television in the suite there and I remember not being able to go out to the dinner with the rest of them. I went back to my room and I was just alone for the evening, just cogitating the wretchedness of this act.

### Police Brutality

Q: Along the latter part of the 1960's there was also consideration of police brutality being excessive against the black population. Do you recall that situation? I believe you had made statements that it was not excessive brutality.

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***"I felt that only minorities and poor people were the ones who got the death penalty."***

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A: Yes, I think that the phrase "police brutality" became sort of a code word and that, in many instances where police sought to enforce the law, people just resisted the enforcement of the law and there were instances where there were skirmishes. There were fistfights, people got their heads hit with nightsticks or shot under circumstances where, if both persons involved had been a little more civil to each other, it would never have happened.

Then there became a climate of fear. I'm sure that a lot of white policemen were afraid in certain situations in black communities. A lot of things that passed for police brutality were, in fact, perhaps police brutality. A lot of things which were adjudged to be, or said to be, police brutality were not in my judgement police brutality but were police enforcing the law where they had encountered resistance. But really what it is or what it isn't is not really so important, actually, as what it is perceived to be.

### Insurance

Q: One of the biggest areas that you were involved with was with insurance. [W]hy would you have been so interested in insurance matters in the legislature?

A: [F]rom the very first time I went to Springfield, one of the largest complaints that I'd had from the people in my district was about their relationship with insurance companies. Many of them felt that they were being ripped off. [I]n my district there were a large number of people who were not paid for accident claims. There were people who had insurance companies and many of them were fly-by-night companies. [I]n 1957 a company could actually come into Illinois, set up and do business and not be examined during the first two years of its existence. [C]ompanies would come in, take a large number of premiums, pay no claims and then fold their tents and leave within that two year period before they could be examined. And one of the first bills I passed in 1957 was one that prohibited that kind of thing and made for early examination of those companies.

We were paying more premiums for the same kind of coverage than they were paying in other districts, particularly in white districts. Chicago had a zone system of premium charge and people in my district paid more for automobile insurance than they did in many other parts of the state, and more than in some other parts of Chicago.

So those bills were all calculated to give strength and vitality to the insurance industry in the context of consumers getting the best kind of a deal.

### Death Sentence

Q: In regard to the death sentence, it appeared that you were in favor of suspension, or perhaps, abolishment of the death sentence. What was your position?

A: Well, philosophically I have always been opposed to the death sentence because during the period that I

*(continued on p. 18)*

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## Cecil Partee Oral History (continued from p. 17)

had opposition, I felt that only minorities and poor people were the ones who got the death penalty. People who had money and could hire top-flight lawyers rarely ever got the death penalty. It was normally poor people and minority people who got the death penalty and I was opposed to it because I didn't think, first of all, that that was a very fair kind of rationale. And also, I believed that, you know, if perchance you gave somebody the death penalty and you made a mistake, you'd made a mistake and there would be no way to rectify it.

I had been an assistant state's attorney for eight years before I went to the legislature. I won an awful lot of cases for the state. I won eighteen juries in a row in felony cases but in none of those cases did we ever recommend a death penalty. A lot of cases where people got 99 years and 199 years, and all of that. But I'll tell you, we always knew that if we had made a mistake we could always bring that person out of the penitentiary, if we found out that he wasn't the person that did it. So I was really opposed to the death penalty.

In later years, I think I've been inclined to change my position on it. The Supreme Court of the United States commenced a course of action a few years ago where they swung the pendulum very very far in the interest of fairness to the defendant. And although I think that fairness to the defendant is a good and salutary thing, I think the pendulum swung so far that the Supreme Court, in giving extended rights to the defendant, commences to diminish the rights of the persons who were injured, the rights of the complaining witnesses. I think their rights commenced to evaporate, as rights for the defendants increased, so much so that it became pretty much common knowledge in the United States that whatever you did you were not going to get electrocuted for it. You would never get the death penalty. And I've come to believe that a lot of people have been killed in rather simple robberies, or simple burglaries, or simple

rapes, because the defendant believed that he wasn't going to get the chair anyway and that, even if he killed the person, he was not going to get the chair. So he would kill the person, then there is nobody to testify against him and, even if he is apprehended, he is not going to get the chair anyway. So I kind of believe that we really started people to killing people in other criminal activity, because they knew they were not going to get the death penalty. And for that reason, I think I have moved back toward believing that if I were in the legislature today, I'm pretty sure that I would vote for the reinstatement of the death penalty, for that reason, if for no other.

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***“Blessed are they who have nothing to say, and more blessed they shall be if they cannot be persuaded to say it.”***

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### **Eighteen Year Olds Vote**

Q: In regard to elections, you were the lead in proposing that Illinois ratify the U.S. constitutional amendment reducing the age from 21 to 18 for voting. In 1972 you introduced a bill which was approved to implement that for the state of Illinois.

A: Yes. The eighteen-year-old voting was a very hotly contested issue and it was something that really had everybody upset. I guess a lot of gentlemen felt that if the eighteen-year-olds got the vote, that, in many instances in many areas, particularly the areas of the colleges, that they would come in in large numbers and take over the established leadership of those county governments.

I can remember the day that it was called and passed in the Senate, we had 58 people present and 40 of them spoke on the subject, and 8 of them spoke twice. That's when we had the explanation of votes, so you could speak for or against the bill, and then on the roll call you could explain your vote, which was another speech. I told them that I firmly believed in freedom of speech, but I thought it only fair to

point out to them that after the first 3 spoke, the next 37 did not add one bit of information to the debate, but actually the next 37 simply rehashed what the first 3 had said on the question. And I told them that I was reminded of the Beatitudes and that I had a new Beatitude for them “Blessed are they who have nothing to say, and more blessed they shall be if they cannot be persuaded to say it.” And there were a couple of nuns sitting in the gallery and, the next day, they brought me down something that they had—the new Beatitude statement in a script on a piece of paper—and framed for me, and I have it hanging on the wall.

[S]ometimes rather dire predictions as to how [legislation] is going to affect people don't come true at all. As a matter of fact, after the eighteen-year-olds were permitted to vote, in the very first election after the permission for them to vote, there was a pretty big outpouring of youngsters, 18 to 20 years old, who came in to vote. Since that time, it has fallen down considerably. The predictions just didn't come true. As a matter of fact, senior citizens, on a percentage basis, are much stronger voters than our younger. So sometimes you have to look back at what was predicted would happen if certain legislation was passed, and it didn't happen at all. And sometimes things you didn't think were going to happen, did.

### **Candidates' Pamphlets**

Q: In 1971 and again in 1973 and 1974, you cosponsored a bill which would have the secretary of state publish candidates' pamphlets.

A: I think the idea for candidates' pamphlets grew out of an observation that we made of such a pamphlet in the state of Oregon. One of the reasons for it was that it would tend to make all candidates have at least an initial kind of accessibility to the voters, despite the fact that there may be some disproportionate differences in the candidates' individual ability to do so. One candidate may have a great deal more money to spend for literature than the other. There was a tendency, or an attempt, to at least give

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every candidate some opportunity to get his name and his platform before the public. [W]e felt that that would at least equalize in some fashion the ability and capability of a less affluent candidate to get his name before the public.

Q: I understand there were considerable problems of making sure that it was known who was supporting a particular candidate.

A: Well, I think the whole idea of disclosure is calculated to inform the public who the principal supporters of a particular candidate are and to let the public judge from that information whether or not there are any debts owed to any particular segment of the business community, or to any particular segment of any kind of group.

Q: In 1975 and 1977, you cosponsored, with Donnewald, a bill which would limit the candidates' campaign expenditures. Both of these were tabled.

A: I supported the campaign expenditure level, top-levels, on the basis that it would make it possible in some instances, if there are not caps on it, for people with a lot of money to have a lot of newspapers, or a lot of ads in the papers, radio, television, to the disadvantage and distress of a less well-heeled candidate. It was an attempt to prevent anybody from just, say, buying public office, because of the large number of dollars they had available for a campaign. And I thought there ought to be some limitation on how much a person could spend. And those limits were graded downward in terms, you know, of the importance of the office. Governor's office may spend more money than say someone running for comptroller, something of that sort.

Q: What's been your position in regard to the government paying for campaign expenditures?

A: I think eventually we will come to that. I suppose the first inroad in that area is the check off system which obtains at the federal level, where

you can check off for a dollar coming out of your federal income tax to go to one party or the other. Perhaps if candidates did not have to rely on the general population to raise their campaign funds, they could possibly go into office with less obligation to those people who raise their campaign funds. If someone runs for public office in a particular area, and there are a few large insurance companies in that area, and they raise the bulk of their money, they more or less have some sort of feeling of affinity toward the problems of the insurance industry, and it is just a normal kind of natural thing. If a person is supported overwhelmingly by teachers' unions or groups, they feel a natural affinity to be protectionistic toward that group. So if nobody could accept campaign funds from anybody, then nobody would be beholden to anybody.

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***"Perhaps if candidates did not have to rely on the general population to raise their campaign funds, they could possibly go into office with less obligation to those people who raise their campaign funds."***

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#### **Governor Maddox**

Q: Did you have occasion to use the state library very much?

A: I know on one occasion I had a debate with a man from, who was then the governor of Georgia, and I went to the state library and we were able to find every single one of the newspaper articles where he had been mentioned. He was a man who was known for his hatchet handles on the chicken farm down there. He became governor of Georgia. What's his name? Well, anyway, he was a segregationist and a man who was keeping black people out of his restaurants and stuff like that.

Well, I had a debate with him and demolished him in the debate because he didn't know anything about me and probably didn't take the time to find

out. But I went to the state library and they had every article that had ever been written on him, and we read it. So, in the course of the debate, I could demolish some of his points by proving to him that in different times in different places during his lifetime he had manifested a different attitude. The man I was trying to remember, name was Lester Maddox. He was the one the library helped me to be prepared to debate.

#### **Governors Kerner and Walker**

Q: What was the difference in working with Walker from working under Kerner?

A: (laughs) I think, actually, the Walker—well, the methodology by which a person is elected may have some effect on that person's regime in office. Now, when Kerner was elected, he was elected with the full and complete and total support of every segment of the Democratic party. No confrontations of any kind between one group and another. All Democrats supported him. Walker's election was a very different one. He appealed to various kinds of people, including Democrats and Independents, and others, and at the very beginning you could tell, from his inauguration, that there were going to be differences. In other words, people who had been with him the longest were going to be closest to him in terms of jobs and other kinds of things. We had people who—working here with the regular organization—were not given the same kind of a welcome. [S]o when we got to the legislature, he was in confrontative situations with the leadership of the party here and, as a consequence, it was nip and tuck all the way.

I tried very much to talk to him one day and told him that he should sit down with Daley, he was the leader up here, find out how they could get their act together and not have any kind of fights, and this kind of thing, and I think Daley was very willing to do that. I think though that if Governor Walker—who had, in a measure,

(continued on p. 20)

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## Cecil Partee Oral History *(continued from p. 19)*

won because he had showed some opposition to Daley—if he had done that, then he would have lost a lot of support that he had from a lot of Independents and others, so he never really kind of wanted to do that. Certainly not openly.

So, they just always kept me in a tizzy trying to satisfy and protect both ends of the party, while at the same time making sure that the people got what they were entitled to in terms of service. So it was a very difficult kind of period. We had our ups and downs.

Q: How much should the legislature be involved in the control of the judiciary?

A: (chuckles) It's been an interminable fight over the years. You can go all the way back to the time of Marbury vs. Madison when John Marshall was the chief justice and he wrote the opinion that said that the court could declare an act of Congress unconstitutional and established that precedent. Until that time, of course, that was not involved, and I suppose that since time immemorial there has been some discussion about how much the courts could control the legislature, how much the legislature would be able to control the court. They are equal, separate and equal, and operate and exist concomitantly, and that is the way it ought to be. But you always have, from time to time, some case arising where there has to be a determination made. I think, frankly, so long as one does not try to suppress the other, and renders any decisions which are thought to be reasonable, that decision can survive without a lot of confrontation or opposition from the other branch.

### Aid to Families with Dependent Children

Q: There was a feeling through the years that aid to dependent children was getting out of hand a little bit, that there was more money going into it than should have. Do you feel that was true?

A: Well, that's not a subject that lends itself to a quick answer or a quick solution. The aid to dependent children phase of the government, of the whole program I think, really, has been stretched beyond what I think it originally set out to do. I think originally the program was supposed to be a sort of a stop-gap, temporary kind of measure. We now find that it has gone from generation to generation to generation, and I think perhaps the encouragement has exceeded the lack of encouragement that should have been in terms of helping people get off of welfare.

There were some programs over the years calculated to get people off of welfare, but I am just not sure that the program has been run in the best fashion. It seems to me that, the long number of years that we have had welfare, that it [ha]s not improved in terms of helping people, but it has hurt people more than it has helped in that a lot of people have become absolutely dependent on it and it has gone from generation to generation. I am not happy with the way the whole program has worked out.

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***"The fact is that the longer the legislature is in session, the more money it spends and the more the various state officers are likely to ask for additional funds for various kinds of things."***

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Q: Do you recall any specifics during your Senate period in regard to public aid, attempts to bring it more under control?

A: [O]ver the last twenty year period, there has never been a year when someone has not had some bills or had some approaches to either eliminate it or say that people who had more than X number of children should be off welfare, that the new children shouldn't go on. [I]t has been a constant fight, a constant vigil, people who have sought increases in welfare, raises from year to year. It has been a constant battle, the whole issue.

### Legislative Staff

Q: Sir, you came to the legislature at a time when there was a start of major change in size and the amount of work the legislature was doing. What do you think was the most significant change in the twenty some years you were in the legislature?

A: I think the greatest change was the addition of staff personnel. When I first came to the legislature, there was very little staff, very little supportive staff. Committees had a clerk and that was about all. Most of the legislators did not even have a private, personal secretary. As a matter of fact, we had girls in a steno pool and there was no consistency. You would have one lady this day and another one next week, and you had no offices, no place in which to work, no place to receive a phone call. We used to have to use public telephones to call back to Chicago to your office or to constituents. And so, getting an office and getting personnel, both in the office and on the staff of the various committees, is the most significant change that I can tell you.

Q: [O]ne of the major changes that did occur was the change to annual sessions as opposed to biennial sessions. Was this a good move?

A: Well, as I look back on it, I am not sure that it has as much meaning as it was touted to have had. The fact is that the longer the legislature is in session, the more money it spends and the more the various state officers are likely to ask for additional funds for various kinds of things. I would think if I had it to do over that I would be more inclined to stay with the biennial session rather than the annual session.

The other thing that the biennial session provided were people who really had the time to serve as legislators and to earn a living in some other chosen profession or trade or occupation. With the biennial session, we developed a lot of persons who described themselves as "professional legislators," and my feeling is that the legislative process should not be peopled with persons who are professional legislators, because they, then, lose

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the one thing that a legislator ought to have and that is a day-to-day currency with reality and with the everyday world. If a man is a doctor or if he is a lawyer or if he is a farmer, or insurance man, or teacher even, he is not in the legislature all the time, he is out in the day-to-day world and he brings the experience of the everyday world to the legislative process. Whereas a person who is there in the legislature on a day-to-day basis very often loses that human touch, that day-to-day progression or retrogression that is existing or happening in the world, and in the state. So I think the biennial sessions were best for that reason, because people then were never going to make enough money in the legislature to sustain themselves. Hence, they needed, of course, some other occupations and that brought them out into the other world.

We always had special sessions during the time we had the biennial sessions because there were some problems that arose from time to time which had to be dealt with with some immediacy, and that was enough time to do it. But with the on-going session, we are almost like Congress there now. The people are there almost the year round, and it is not, I think, in the best interests of the taxpayers.

### Racial Barriers in Springfield

Q: One of the major changes that occurred through the years was the breaking down of the racial barriers in the legislature and in Springfield itself, perhaps. Your becoming president of the Senate kind of epitomized that change. What do you think was the major significant contribution that you yourself made during the six or so years you were leading the Senate.

A: Well, you are very right that there was a real, real change in racial matters during the time I was there, because when I first got there, just before I got there, it was impossible for a black legislator to live in one of the hotels, for example. When I became a lawyer in Illinois, I couldn't go in the hotel and eat with my class on the night of the swearing in. And those things changed principally because of the Federal civil rights law and the

people in Illinois, then, decided to follow the national trend and now have. Those things are behind us.

My becoming president of the Senate, I think, in effect, symbolized a new kind of growth, a new kind of development, and I was careful to make certain that, being the first, I brought the kind of energy and work products to the Senate that would be salutary and progressive, and it would be outstanding. I wanted to be an outstanding person. I think—I say immodestly that I think my record is one that has had a lot of nice things said about it in terms of the way we conducted it. Even to the smallest things.

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***"When I was a youngster, I didn't realize how far-seeing and wise my mother was"***

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### Advice to Youth

Q: [W]hat are your thoughts concerning a legislative career today? For a young person that might be looking in that direction?

A: Well, today, yesterday, tomorrow, for me I think it is the same in terms of what I basically feel a person ought to be equipped with when he goes into the legislature, or into politics period, there are some ups and downs in this business like in all other businesses. [I]f a person really wants to be guaranteed some tranquility, some mental tranquility, some economic stability, that he or she ought to have some other kind of basic way to earn a living if he desires to run for public office. He ought to, if he is defeated, be able to go out into the marketplace as an accountant, or as a truck driver, or something that he is equipped to handle so that he is not at the mercy of anybody. I think everybody ought to have a trade or profession or something where he can earn a living extrinsic to politics.

I was at a place the other day and a young man says, "I want to be a senator." I said, "What are you going to be before you are a senator? What are you going to be if you are not a senator?" That is the kind of question I have asked these young people today

because, although it is glamorous and it looks good, I think you ought to be able to care for yourself aside from it. [I] don't think as time goes on, that legislators are going to meet year-round and people ought to have something else to do.

Q: Sir, since you have left the legislature, have you missed being there?

A: I had twenty beautiful, wonderful, rewarding, and inspiring years in the legislature. My life has been a series of involvements. I was an assistant state's attorney for a period of time and I thoroughly enjoyed that. I was a private lawyer in certain areas for a period of time, and I thoroughly enjoyed that. I enjoyed my years in the legislature. I'm not one who looks backwards very much in any kind of frustrating way.

### Credit for Mother

I suppose I should give my mother credit, more than any other person, for equipping me to articulate my points and to express myself well, if I am able to. She is the one that should get the credit. When I was a youngster, I didn't realize how far-seeing and wise my mother was but she used to do something that used to annoy me and that was to send me on a walk downtown, eight or ten blocks, with a blind man—take him downtown, bring him home—and she said to me, "Tell him what you see." And he had never had sight, it wasn't a person who had lost his sight. He was a person who had never been able to see and, as a kid, you know, ten or twelve years old, learning under those arduous circumstances to express to him, a blind person, what I saw. But I think it was important in formulating within me the desire and ability to draw pictures with words and I think that stood me in pretty good stead in the legislature because—I never talked too much but when I did most people would listen, and that is kind of rewarding. Makes you feel kind of good. So, being able to discuss things and debate them was interesting to me and I enjoyed it. Enjoyed it very very much. □

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# Special Leadership Opportunity for Legislators

Each year the Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development – BILLD – awards fellowships to 36 select legislators in the Midwestern states and provinces to help them develop the skills they need to be effective leaders and policymakers.

**The 12<sup>th</sup> annual Bowhay Institute will be held July 7-11 in Madison, WI.** The intensive five-day program is conducted by the Midwestern Legislative Conference of The Council of State Governments, in partnership with The Robert M. La Follette School of Public Affairs at the University of Wisconsin.

Faculty from the La Follette School and outside experts conduct seminars and workshops on a variety of topics to enhance leadership skills and knowledge of key public policies. Leadership training – the most crucial element of the program – is provided on topics such as strategic thinking, coalition building, and conflict resolution. Fellows also participate in professional development seminars on topics such as communicating with the media and priority management.

The annual fellowships are awarded on a competitive, nonpartisan basis by the BILLD Steering Committee, a bipartisan group of legislators from each state in the region. **Applications, which are due by March 31**, are now available from CSG’s Midwestern Office. Recipients of the 2006 fellowships will be announced in May.

Applicants are evaluated based on their leadership potential, including problem-solving skills, their dedication to public service, and their commitment to improving the legislative process. Each fellowship covers the cost of tuition, lodging, and meals. A nominal travel stipend is also offered to each participant.

For application materials, or more information, please contact Laura A. Tomaka at (630) 925-1922 or visit CSG Midwest’s Web site at [www.csgmidwest.org](http://www.csgmidwest.org).

The following is a list of legislators who have attended Bowhay Institute:

Sen. Jacqueline Y. Collins, 2004  
Rep. Elaine Nekritz, 2004  
Rep. Robert W. Pritchard, 2004

Rep. Maria A. Berrios, 2003  
Rep. Chapin Rose, 2003  
Rep. Kathleen A. Ryg, 2003

Rep. Annazette Collins, 2002  
Rep. Charles Jefferson, 2002  
Rep. Karen Yarbrough, 2002

Rep. Randall M Hultgren, 2001  
Rep. David E. Miller, 2001  
Rep. Harry Osterman, 2001  
Rep. Cynthia Soto, 2001

Rep. Suzanne Bassi, 2000  
Rep. William Delgado, 2000  
Rep. Timothy L. Schmitz, 2000

Rep. Sidney H. Mathias, 1999

Rep. Elizabeth Coulson, 1998  
Rep. John A. Fritchey, 1998  
Sen. Terry Link, 1998

Sen. James Clayborne, 1997  
Rep. Connie A. Howard, 1997  
Sen. Christine Radogno, 1997

Rep. Thomas Holbrook, 1996  
Rep. Michael K. Smith, 1996

Rep. Sara Feigenholtz, 1995  
Rep. David Winters, 1995

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# Abstracts of Reports Required to be Filed with General Assembly

The Legislative Research Unit staff is required to prepare abstracts of reports required to be filed with the General Assembly. Legislators may receive copies of entire reports by sending the enclosed form to the State Government Report Distribution Center at the Illinois State Library. Abstracts are published quarterly. Legislators who wish to receive them more often may contact the executive director.

## **Central Management Services**

*Business Enterprise Program annual report, FY 2004*

State agencies and universities awarded over \$350 million in contracts to businesses under the Business Enterprise Program for Minorities, Females, and Persons with Disabilities, surpassing its goal of \$221 million. Minority-owned businesses received \$185 million (52.4%) in state contracts, non-minority women-owned businesses received \$135 million (38.2%), and disability-owned businesses received \$33 million (9.4%). Total value of the contracts under this program fell \$47 million since FY 2003. Also lists individual agencies' and universities' goals, and value and number of contracts to firms under the program. (30 ILCS 575/8f; June 2005, 29 pp.)

## **Commerce Commission**

*Annual Report on Telecommunications Markets in Illinois, 2004*

Summarizes local telephone service in three areas: plain old telephone service (POTS), high speed telecommunications, and mobile wireless. Forty-nine incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECs) and 65 competitive local exchange carriers (CLECs) provided service to 8.1 million persons (a decrease from 8.3 million). CLECs provided service to 23% (up from 21%). Providers served nearly 1.2 million (up 58% from 2003) broadband customers via asymmetrical-digital-subscriber-line (ADSL) and cable modem. Mobile wireless providers served over 7.5 million subscribers mid-year 2004 versus 6.8 million mid-year 2003. (220 ILCS 5/13-407; May 2005, 46 pp.)

*Annual Report on Electricity, Gas, Water, and Sewer Utilities, 2004*

Reviews ICC's major decisions and other activities in calendar year 2004, including an overview of the utility

industry, availability of service, investigations and appeals from Commission orders, and impacts of federal activity. Major electric utilities' 2003 average prices per kilowatt-hour were: Commonwealth Edison 7.75¢; Interstate Power 5.48¢; MidAmerican 6.05¢; South Beloit 6.73¢; Ameren-CILCO 6.06¢; AmerenCIPs 6.51¢; AmerenIP 6.97¢; AmerenUE 4.20¢; and Mt. Caramel 7.44¢. Major gas utilities' 2003 average prices per therm were: Interstate 78.85¢; MidAmerican 84.68¢; Nicor Gas 75.01¢; North Shore 83.05¢; Peoples Gas 94.18¢; South Beloit 86.02¢; AmerenCILCO 83.50¢; AmerenCIPS 91.17¢; AmerenIP 84.46¢; Atmos Energy 91.42¢; AmerenUE 79.68¢; Consumers Gas 85.02¢; Illinois Gas 91.34¢; and Mt. Caramel 88.25¢. Also compares rates of major water utilities. (220 ILCS 5/4-304; Jan. 2005, 62 pp. + 2 appendices)

## **Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Dept. of**

*Supplemental Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund Expenditures, January 1998 through June 2003*

From 1998-2003, \$406.6 million in customer charges were collected by participating electric utilities to fund the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Home Weatherization Assistance Programs (IHWAP). With 37 utilities participating, \$73.8 million was collected plus \$90.1 million in appropriations in FY 2003. Energy assistance was provided to 157,066 households, emergency assistance to 11,763 households, and weatherization to 1,050 households in FY 2003. Expenditures were \$60.7 million for heating assistance; \$6.7 million for weatherization; \$4.2 million for administration; and \$2.7 million for agency administration in FY 2003. (305 ILCS 20/13(h), Sept. 2004, rec'd March 2005, 12 pp.)

*High Impact Business designation*  
Takeda Pharmaceuticals North America, Inc. plans to invest \$47 million, retain 650 existing full-time jobs, and create 500 new full-time jobs in Deerfield. The company qualifies for Illinois High Impact Business tax credits and exemptions for up to 20 years, provided it fulfills the minimums for investments and jobs. (20 ILCS 655/5.5(h); March, 2005; 2 pp.)

## **Comptroller**

*Comprehensive annual financial report, FY 2004*

General funds revenue (General Revenue Fund, Special Account Fund, Education Assistance Fund, and Common School Fund) was \$26.16 billion, an increase of 10% from \$23.7 billion in FY 2003. Income taxes collected about \$9.05 billion (up 8%); sales \$8.9 billion (up 7.1 %); motor fuel \$1.4 (up 8.9%); public utilities \$1.4 (down 7.7%); and other \$2.6 (up 2.4%). Spending was \$ 49.2 billion (up 3.1%). Gives a comprehensive examination of the state's funds by type. Includes a financial statement compiled using generally accepted accounting principles. (15 ILCS 405/20; May 2005, 316 pp. + tables)

## **Human Services Dept.**

*Homeless Prevention Program annual report, FY 2004*

The Homeless Prevention Program works to stabilize families in their existing homes, reduce time in shelters, and assist in securing permanent housing. In FY 2004, the program received \$4 million from Federal TANF funds, \$1 million from the State General Revenue Fund, and \$463,328 from the Emergency Food & Shelter Program. The Homeless Prevention Program served 10,837 households. Families with children accounted for 82% of households served. An average of \$502 was spent per household. Eighty-three percent of participants remained housed at least six months after FY 2004. (310 ILCS 70/13; May 2005, 38 pp. + tables and graphs)

## **Illinois Finance Authority**

*Illinois Environmental Facilities Financing Act Report, 2005*

From April 1, 2004 to March 31, 2005, the Illinois Finance Authority issued an \$18 million bond for Republic Services, Inc.; an \$11 million bond for Recycling Systems, Inc.; a \$19.2

(continued on p. 24)

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## Abstracts of Reports Required to be Filed With General Assembly

(continued from p. 23)

million bond for Central Illinois Light Co.-AmerenCILCO; a \$35 million bond for Central Illinois Light Co.-AmerenCIPS; and a \$91 million bond for Commonwealth Edison Co. (20 ILCS 3515/7; March 2005, 2 pp.)

### Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA)

*Annual Comprehensive Housing Plan, 2004*

Lists six underserved populations given priority by the State Consolidated Plan-2004 Action Plan: (1)

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## FIRST READING

A publication of the Legislative Research Unit

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households below 50% of area median income; (2) low income seniors; (3) low income individuals with disabilities; (4) homeless persons; (5) low or moderate income persons unable to find affordable housing near work or transportation; and (6) low income persons residing in affordable housing that is likely to become unaffordable or lost. Reviews work of the new Housing Task Force and its committees; identifies sources of housing funding; and summarizes relevant new laws. Reports that IHDA (all programs) assisted a total of 6,045 persons, households, or units in 2004. Of those, 6,043 fell into the priority populations identified above. (Executive Order 18 (2003); April 2005, 45 pp. + 4 attachments)

### Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board

*Mobile Team Training Units annual report, FY 2004*

The 16 units provided 37,322 hours of instruction to 53,253 police officers at an average cost of \$131 per trainee. The units conducted 44 mandatory firearms courses, training 594 officers.

Total expenditures of \$7.02 million came from federal, state, and local funds. A ten year review of mobile team unit operations is provided. (50 ILCS 760/6; Jan. 2005, 13 pp.)

### Metropolitan Enforcement Groups (MEGs)

*Annual report, FY 2004*

The nine MEG's opened 2,972 cases in 2004, up 5.46% from 2003. Cases closed by arrest fell 12.83% to a total of 1,862. MEG units made 1,751 drug seizures, removing over \$186 million in drugs from the street. DuPage MEG closed 118 cases by arrest; Joliet, 127; Kankakee, 263; Lake County, 493; Southwestern Illinois, 277; Multi-County (includes Knox, Marshall, Peoria, Stark, and Tazewell counties), 294; Quad City, 57; and Southern Illinois, 168. MEGs were budgeted \$1.17 million for FY 2004, of which 29% (\$334,529) came from asset forfeiture funds. (30 ILCS 715/6; Jan. 2005, 37 pp.)

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