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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

HARRY READ, Director of Information and Publications (217) 581-2820

July 21, 1982
L/A/Metro (173)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Secretary of State Jim Edgar and Roger Hibbs, President of Union Carbide's Nuclear Division, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, have been named distinguished alumni of Eastern Illinois University. The awards will be presented at Homecoming on Oct. 9.

Edgar, of Charleston, graduated in 1968 with a B.S. degree in history. Appointed by Gov. James Thompson in November of 1980, Edgar formally became Illinois' 35th Secretary of State in January 1981. He succeeded Alan Dixon, who was elected to the U.S. Senate.

Although Hibbs is a native of St. Louis, he also spent his formative years in Charleston where he graduated from Eastern's "Training School" and the "Teachers College High School" before enrolling at the college in 1939.

Edgar was serving his second term in the Illinois House from the 53rd District (1977-1979) when he joined the Thompson administration in 1979 as Director of Legislative Affairs.

From 1968 to 1971 Edgar was an aide to Illinois Senate President Pro Tem W. Russell Arrington. He served as an assistant to House Speaker W. Robert Blair from 1972 to 1973 and as an aide to Illinois Senate President William Harris in 1974.

Edgar was Director of State Service for the National Conference of State Legislatures, Denver, Colorado, from 1975 to 1976.

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Distinguished Alumni
Add 1

Edgar was the student body president at Eastern in his senior year and was vice president of the campus Young Republicans. He has done graduate work in political science at the University of Illinois and Sangamon State University. Edgar is a candidate for election to the Secretary of State's post.

Edgar and Mrs. Edgar, the former Brenda Smith, are the parents of two children.

Hibbs, a 1943 graduate with a chemistry major, joined the staff of Eastman Kodak Company and was transferred to the Oak Ridge Y-12 Plant. The plant was operated by Eastman for the U.S. Government as part of the wartime effort to develop the atomic bomb.

When Union Carbide took over the operation in 1947 Hibbs was put in charge of the isotopic analysis laboratory and in 1952 he became head of the Laboratory Division. Two years later he was named head of the Chemical Process Division.

Hibbs was successively promoted to Technical Division Manager, Superintendent of the Y-12 Plant, Vice President of the Nuclear Division and President in 1969.

Employment at the Nuclear Division tops 18,000 and the operating budget is more than \$1.8 billion.

Hibbs and his wife, the former Mary Jane Aland, are the parents of eight children. Mr. and Mrs. Hibbs live in Harriman, Tennessee.