

Roger Addison

Registration and Compliance Clerk, Office of the Clerk

The Long Struggle for Representation: Oral Histories of African Americans in Congress

Making a Request

Roger Addison recalls the encouragement he received to pursue his career goals while working for the House.

Interview recorded May 29, 2019

Remember I told you that we were moving the special furniture from the upholstery shop and the cabinet shop. It had to go up to the Member's office. And one of my crew members was George Moore. George Moore knew that I had a desire to drive the Clerk. So right after the, the last move, I believe, I can't remember the year that it was, we were doing some touch-up work and one of the deputy clerks was William Long at the time. And he had a building off the Rotunda of the Capitol. And me and George, we was just so happening to, to deliver some furniture there. And he told me, "Why don't you go knock on the door and, and ask him if you can have an audience with him, talk to him and tell him your desires." And, "No, I don't want to do that," you know. I'm not going to bother him. He, he coaxed me and he pushed me and he literally pushed me to the door to knock on the door. And I knocked on the door. Mr. Long opened, he's a nice guy, had a big beard. He's rubbing the beard. "Mr. Anderson—Mr. Long, I'd like to have a moment of your time if, if I can." And he looked at me and he said, "Sure, come on in." So I went into his little office and we sit and I told him, and I told him my desires of becoming a driver for the Clerk. I told him my credentials as, of having a chauffeur's license and a DC hacker license. Being a Washingtonian, there's nothing about this city that I don't know. So he kind of rubbed his beard and he said, "That's very interesting but at the moment we don't have anything." And remember Mr. Anderson, you know, was always telling me that he "had a driver, had a driver." He said, "But I'll keep you in mind."