

Joe Bartlett

House Page Responsibilities

Information on the duties and responsibilities of House Pages during the 1940s.

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In those days we worked a half a day Saturday every Saturday, and worked hard. Because that was the day we took those *Congressional Records* out from the seats and did what we called stripping the *Records*. And we took them down to a dungeon down below what was the then the Doorkeeper's office. We had a...I don't know what it is now because they've decided to use much of that space for other purposes. But it was a dungeon full of steel locker boxes. And we put them in there in order by date so that we could...As Members would call up regularly. "I need a copy—I need ten copies," of a particular date. "Be right over." And they were always amazed that we had those resources. Well, the reason we had them was because the Pages spent Saturday taking them from the floor and putting them on file downstairs. And it was true. We were able to make a pretty good account of ourselves in retrieving those and supplying the needs of the Members. Then we did what was called skeletonizing. I made quite a reputation of this. But when on Saturdays, when we didn't have any other thing to do, we would take a *Record* and strip out those things where 10 Members would have something significant in a *Record*. So I would skeletonize a *Record*, provide 10 Members with that portion of the *Record*. See, this was before Xerox. This was before duplication, printing. And so to be able to give a Member 50 copies of a choice item, he was very appreciative. This is why they knew my name.