

Frank Mitchell

Memories of Historic Legislation

Civil Rights legislation and reflections on breaking racial barriers in the House of Representatives.
Interview recorded June 2, 2010

Well I remember I was around for the Voting Rights Act in '65. I think Medicare, also. But because I was in the cloakroom, we never really got to— you know it wasn't like CNN or C-SPAN and you could sit there and watch it or listen to it. We had, we had speakers where we could hear some of the debate, but the phones were ringing, we got to answer the phone. Then we got to go out to the floor and tell somebody that they've got a message. So there's just no time to sit there and absorb any of that. You just remember that it went on. And that's . . . And I think for me, I felt that's . . . I felt those kinds of things, the legislation, was more historic and certainly more important than anything about my appointment. I looked at my appointment as— I looked at it as making sure that I did a good job so that whoever was number two wouldn't have to wait as long.