

Frank Mitchell

Minority Leader Gerald Ford of Michigan

Personal memories of Minority Leader Gerald Ford of Michigan.

Interview recorded June 2, 2010

Well, he was relatively quiet to be the Minority Leader, I recall. But when he—I told a couple—media asked me when he passed in '06 what I thought about him. And I remember him as nothing else but a gentleman. My period of time here, in 1965 and '66, arguably one of the most racially-sensitive times in America, and as a 15, 16 year old kid, I never received any, any problems. No bad words, no innuendos, no jokes that I heard. Nothing. It was all open arms and, "How can we help you succeed?" And I attribute that to Gerald Ford and to Paul Findley. Because, no doubt, before they made the decision to do this, they needed to get everyone lined up on the same page and say, "You know, we're going to give this kid a chance to make it." And they did. So I have nothing but fond memories of Gerald Ford.