

## Tina Tate

### **“Musical Desks” in the House Radio-TV Gallery**

Description of the physical space of the House Radio-TV Gallery before the 1988 renovation.

*Interview recorded June 28, 2007*

The physical space hasn't changed very much. It's still a very small suite of offices on the third floor of the Capitol. We renovated in 1988, and the mezzanine area accommodates a different arrangement, but it's always been kind of on top of each other. When we were first there in the '70s, before we renovated, there wasn't even an individual desk for each person. There were only four people on the staff at the time and there was a space for the—and I have a picture of this, but I didn't bring it; I can do that if you'd like a picture of the original gallery. In fact, I've got two, both of them with me looking really young. The only unique space was the director's space—superintendent's space at that time—and that had a small area, closed off with glass. Then there were desks, but it was musical desks. If anybody left, you got up; there were three desks and four people, so you would just have to find a place to sit. {laughter} Because we didn't really have the kind of file-keeping or record-keeping that we do now. Now, you document everything, but you didn't then, and I don't know why we never thought there would be any long-term to this because Congress was still going on.