

The Honorable Ronald V. Dellums
U.S. Representative of California (1971–1998)

Events: Watergate

Changes During the 94th Congress

Representative Dellums describes the impact of the Watergate scandal on Congress.
Interview recorded April 19, 2012

And so suddenly, here are the ranks—these young guys with hope, and idealism, and enthusiasm, and courage. Suddenly it didn't feel quite as lonely, because now ranks were growing and here are these wonderful—you know—guys who literally became lifetime friends as well. So that was a great, that was a great, time in my life, because here comes this whole new cadre of bright, capable people. The Watergate time period was significant, and I tell people we actually went in rooms, and sat down for hours, and listened to all these tapes. "Really? Really? Yes." We realized that we went through this incredible period of history, but then each Congress, you got to reorganize, and my colleagues decided it was time to move the Armed Services Committee to another place. And with some drama, we won. And Eddie Hébert, who was considered one of the, one of the old guys from the old guard, was removed, and that just opened up a whole other door.