

## Watergate

### Preparing for the Media Attention

#### **Mike Michaelson, Director, Radio-TV Gallery, U.S. House of Representatives**

Discussion of the necessary preparations for press coverage of the Judiciary Committee hearings.

*Interview recorded June 30, 2009.*

I went over and met with the committee and the staff and Mr. Rodino and I worked out the logistics of the room, and I told them, "You're going to have a lot of cameras here." But in those days, you had the major networks. C-SPAN was not even in existence then. And we had to have cameras on the sides of the room. We had the cameras, I think, I think we had a camera behind the Speaker's dais because you had to get a frontal view of the witness chair. And we may have had a camera in the back of the room, too. I know we had a potpourri of cameras because it was required to do a gavel to gavel coverage of the judiciary hearings. You had to have more than one camera. You couldn't swing a cameraman from witness to chairman, and chairman to witness, or the back of the room or the public, so you had to do cutaways, when one camera switches to the other, and makes a nice segue. So, I recall that and think, and trying to reflect on my memory of that, but that was every day, I was the head man, and I represented the Congress, and my staff would go over, and when I paved the way, they would take over my duties, and make sure that everything worked okay. And I went to the chairman and the minority Members, and said, "If you need anything, if you have any problems, I'm your boy."