

George W. Andrews III

Memories of the Congressional Hotel

Recollections of the living quarters and the ambiance of the Congressional Hotel during the 1960s.
Interview recorded May 21, 2010

A number of Congressmen lived in the hotel. And so we moved in. The, I find it hard to believe now the living conditions, but I didn't notice it then. It was a very tiny, little apartment. It was basically two rooms: a larger room, which served as a dining room, a living room, and my bedroom. I slept on a foldout couch. and a small bedroom where my folks were. There was almost no closet space. The bathroom was about the size of a postage stamp, and the kitchen was smaller than that. But that's where we lived. The one thing we did have, we had a large picture window in the living room and it had a tremendous view. The Rayburn Building hadn't been built yet, so we had a tremendous view of the city of Washington out our window. We watched the State Department get built. So, we always enjoyed watching the sunsets and seeing the city unfold every morning. A number of Congressmen lived in the hotel. Also, at the time, the Democratic Party had their social club in the hotel. So, you never knew who you were going to see when you went into the lobby. It was routine to see Congressmen. But from time to time, you would see cabinet members and Senators and people you'd see on the news every day.