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Edna Kelly and the Foreign Affairs Committee

Description of how Representative Edna Kelly of New York was seated on the Foreign Affairs Committee.
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The new Congress came in, and there was openings on Foreign Affairs Committee, or an eight week opening and, I should say. And she said she wanted that. Well, the same time, there was a gentleman by the name of Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., in New York who had been elected as a liberal. My mother was a Democrat, okay? So, Mr. Steingut actually called my mother up, and said, "I just got a call from Sam Rayburn. I understand you want to be on the Foreign Affairs Committee." And, she said, "Yes, Irwin, I do. And, "Okay." Well, apparently Mr. Steingut told Sam, "Well, what does Edna want?" And he said, "Well, she wants Foreign Affairs and I've got a problem with only one seat being filled and I've got Franklin Roosevelt over here." "Well, give Edna what she wants," is what they said, he said to Sam Rayburn. My mother later told me that story.

But what they did was then they created another seat on the Foreign Affairs Committee to put Franklin Roosevelt on and because she said, "Well, he's a liberal. I came in as a Democrat." So, that was her distinction between them. But they were friends, and she helped do things for him when he was running for office in New York State and everything. But she made her point and that's what she wanted to do. And, of course, a lot of her background was in that anyway and she had done a lot of reading and research on it and a lot of concern against the, the communism that was going on in the world.