Generational Divides in the House
Discussion of Representative Martha Griffiths of Michigan and the generational gap between women in the House.

Interview recorded May 29, 2009

Well, first of all, she had a, a good personality. And, and she was able to talk both to men and women about these situations. And she didn’t get anybody riled up about it. And this is prior, probably before all these other people came along. Some of them didn’t help us any, believe me. Women, I’m talking about—didn’t help. And they didn’t help themselves, in a way. I mean, Bella Abzug didn’t last that long in Congress. And, it was just a different type of person. And that’s what I think, the men thought all of these ladies might have been earlier. And they weren’t. They were knowledgeable about what they were doing, and they didn’t try to go all over, over, you know, “I’ll put in 20 bills, and I’ll try to get all 20 of them done,” or something. You know, they, they concentrated on what they were doing in that field. And that was hers. And she just—she was able to handle it. And she was able to get along with men, in, in a lot of ways. And my mother was, too. It just seems to be that way, they’re not alienating them. They didn’t alienate men. They knew their, pardon me, place. And you don’t tread over that.