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Working as Subcommittee Counsel

Michael R. Lemov describes his working relationship with Representative John Moss of California.
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I was his counsel for Commerce and Finance years. When Harley finally gave each subcommittee chair a counsel, I was Moss' counsel. So, I worked really closely with him for about six years, three Congresses, and I had a very good relationship with him. We really thought the same way. I mean, we just, I just, I could anticipate what Moss was going to do on a given issue. And he, he sometimes changed things around or he'd say "Let's do, let's not do that, let's do it this way," but, but basically I was, I was pretty close to anticipating what the chairman wanted. He first, the first few times when I wrote letters for him, or memoranda, he'd make a couple of changes on them, but after that he never changed very much. I mean he pretty much knew I was, I was thinking the way, I got to think the way he thought. That's what a staff member really, really has to do. The key to being a good staff member is understanding what your Member of Congress wants to do, and what he can do practically. Luckily the second one for Moss—what he could do practically—was pretty wide open, as you pointed out, in the later years.