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The Power of the Legislative Branch

Michael R. Lemov encourages young professionals to become congressional staff.

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Somebody once told me, a fellow legislative staffer, that you can do more with the stroke of a pen up here than you can do with a year's work of brief writing at a law firm, or a year's worth of lobbying for a corporation or, or, or a public interest group. That is, there is immense power in the legislative branch. I think, overall, I think politics is a noble profession. And I think young people should go into it, and should, should try to rise in the political system. Not to, so much to aggrandize themselves, or to gain publicity or fame, although that's always a motivating factor but to serve the public interest. Because there's great gratification, as Moss showed. Moss left Washington an average person in terms of wealth or his comforts. He didn't have that. He could have stayed in Washington and gotten very rich as a lobbyist in this town or a corporate official or . . . He did not do it, and many other Members of Congress do not do it. Many of them go to universities, they become professors, or deans, or think tanks. So, to serve the public interest, young people should go into politics. And they should always remember who they represent.