

Charles Marston
Assistant Superintendent, House Press Gallery

“Welfare of the Press”

Charles Marston recalls how he helped the press cover Congress.
Interview recorded August 28, 2014

Looking after seats for the press. Some of the hearings the lobbyists would try to take over the press seats. We would scold them and ask them to stay away. Matter of fact, one day on the Ways and Means Committee a fellow was trying to grab some testimony that was being offered. And this guy reached for the one I was reaching for. So I went like that. They heard it all over the room. I'll never forget it. I got a look from the chairman. Matter of fact, he was quite pleased to do it. So I looked out mainly for the welfare of the press. That was my job. In the afternoon when I did the committee list, call all the committees. And the Capitol operator would stay with me on the manual line. In other words, she knew the routine, did it every day. And she would say, "Next?" I went down the line with her, and I'd do a dozen copies of it, take it to the Speaker's Office, "Fishbait" Miller's office, Radio-TV Gallery.