

Frank Mitchell
Page, U.S. House of Representatives

Busy Republican Cloakroom

Frank Mitchell remembers the Republican Cloakroom as a place Members would gather, rest, and talk in private.

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Then at noon, the House would go into session. The Members would start coming in. Phones would start—they had been ringing previously, but not that much. Because they—people that were calling knew that the Members weren't there yet. But by noon, the phones—I mean we had 13 phones, as I recall, and half or more of them were almost always lit up. It was always a pretty busy time for the four Pages, and then we had two supervisors. So there were six of us that could be answering the phones at once, if need be. Members were constantly in and out of the cloakroom getting something to eat. There was an area where we had large chairs and large couches that they don't have anymore. But the Members would come in there and maybe take a nap. There might be a little meeting of the minds over some issue, some bill, some legislation. The cloakroom was a good place to get those kinds of things done. You know it, it was private. The eyes of the world couldn't peer in and, and see who you were talking to or hear what you were talking about.