

Jeffrey Oshins

On Becoming a House Page

Jeffrey Oshins explains his route to becoming a House Page during the summer of 1965.

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And I could just play with my friends all day, and, and then my mom came and said, “Would you like to be a Page for the summer?” And I said, for my—I said, “Yeah, sure.” I mean, I was interested. I—there was a—you know, just table conversation was always about politics and I knew—I read the—we always had two newspapers, and I would read the newspapers, and, and we had the *Washington Post* every day, and the, and the *Washington Star*, and then I delivered the *Northern Virginia Sun*, so, we actually we had three papers. I’ve always been an avid newspaper reader. And so, I was, I was aware of who these people were, and I knew who Hale Boggs was, he was, I think at that time he was the, the Whip, the House Whip. And so, I said, “Sure.” {laughter} Yes, at 15, I was—“Yeah, let’s do it.”

So, I went down there, and, you know, in a white shirt, gray slacks or black slacks, and, and shoes all shined. Little jacket on, and a tie. You know, we, we dressed—that was in 1965, and at that time, it was before—people dressed a lot more formally, even kids. So, whenever we went into—I mean, I would wear a suit and tie to—a coat and tie to, to school. I went to a private school that had a coat and tie, so, that wasn’t any big deal for me to put on my coat and tie, except I was taken away from my summer time. But that was worth it.

You know, it was like a rite of passage, you know, going from being a kid to a real job. And I just remember that feeling of walking into the Congress for the first time, and I’m just like, “Wow.” You know, and going up to Olympus. And, and then we went into “Fishbait” Miller’s office, and he swore me in. And I had to raise my hand, swear to uphold the Constitution and everything that—I don’t know if he did that to every—all the Pages, or he just did it as a favor to my mother, who I’m sure knew him, and was friends with him, and certainly with the Boggs’. And I remember him. I remember her being just—just having this beaming mother’s pride watching me getting sworn in to be a Page.