

**Patricia (Tish) Speed Schwartz**  
**Chief Clerk/Administrator, House Committee on the Judiciary**

**“Apple Pie and America”**

Memories of the thrill of the Space Age and the work of the House Science Committee.

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It was just thrilling. It was exciting. It was on the news all the time. It was the beginning of the space program and landing on the moon. It was just, you were just on the cutting edge, and you seemed to be above the political fray. It was like apple pie and America, and everybody said, “Oh, that’s so cool, and isn’t this great?”

And the committee itself, the House Science Committee, had a very collegial feeling about it. We had Democratic and Republican staff, but unlike a lot of committees, that committee, on each subcommittee, you had Democratic and Republican staff working together. They had specific jobs within that subcommittee—the same thing on the full committee. So, it was a unique—I didn’t know it at the time, I had thought all committees operated like that. They did not.

And once they defined a Republican staff, and a Democratic staff, but because the issues were . . . they didn’t seem to be driven by politics, they were, I felt they were driven by the common good, that we’re looking to find a better way to do something. And that was the Science Committee, through science and technology, and space, and National Science Foundation. Everything was like, we were moving forward, frontiers. There were frontiers out there that we had to conquer. And we did it together. It was a great place to work.