

The Honorable Helen Delich Bentley
U.S. Representative of Maryland (1985–1995)

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

First Political Experience: Part One

Representative Bentley describes working on Nevada Representative Jim Scrugham's U.S. Senate campaign.

Interview recorded March 21, 2016

Jim Scrugham, who had been a Member of the House here, was running for the U.S. Senate. It was an open seat and Jim came into our newspaper office down in Ely and asked Charlie, the publisher, "I need somebody to run my campaign in White Pine County. Can you recommend anybody?" Now Jim was a Democrat, but in those days, everybody worked together. Charlie looked at him and said, "Get her." I had never, never been around politics before. So, Scrugham came over and talked to me a little bit with his colonel friend, who was accompanying him. And I said, "I'll try it. I don't know anything about it, but I'll try it." So, that was my first venture into politics. I went door-to-door talking about Jim Scrugham.