

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

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

First Political Experience: Part Two

Representative Bentley reflects on the nature of campaigning.
Interview recorded March 21, 2016

About midway they added Eureka County to my White Pine County. Well, Eureka was really, I mean, White Pine was bad enough—copper mines, old miners, immigrants who knew not much about voting. My parents were immigrants. And we won. Both of my counties won for Scrugham! So, after he got in the next January, he offered me a position in his Washington office, and I grabbed it. And said, “Yes, I’ll come.” Now let me say this. The way I campaigned back in 1942, door-to-door talking to people, you know what? Campaigning hasn’t changed much in those years. People want to feel a shake, a shake of, a handshake, and they want to hear from the candidate or somebody close to the candidate.