

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

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

“The Port That Built a City”

Representative Bentley explains the intersection between politics and her television career.
Interview recorded March 21, 2016

It was about the time of the birth of television—1950, 1949, I'd say—and a couple of the men who are in charge of like the Propeller Club of Baltimore and the Traffic Club of Baltimore said, “Helen, we need to do a television show.” I said, “I don't know anything about television. Hell, I hardly know anything about reporting.” So, I ended up structuring a television show and it was called, “The Port that Built a City.” And it ran for 15 years every Sunday, and I did it. I raised the money for it, I laid out the stories, I went with a cameraman, we shot the film, I helped edit, I wrote the script, and then I was on with a moderator also, 15 years. But it gave me a big boost in being able to think about elections because I was the person, at that time, who, candidates who were running for office would come and talk to me about the port, and I would tell them all of the pluses and all of the minuses.