

The Honorable Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
U.S. Representative of California (1973–1979)

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

Congresswomen in the Public Eye

Representative Burke discusses the portrayal of women Members in the press.
Interview recorded July 22, 2015

But the reality is, if you run for Congress at that time and you were a woman, everything about you was always open to the press. Your life was an open book. What you wore, where you went to the hairdresser, whatever—everything about you, because everyone was looking at you. “What do you wear on the floor?” “What do you wear when you go out?” You know, all of those things, were absolutely open to the press. “Who do you talk to?” You know, it was a big issue that Barbara Jordan always sat in a particular place with her Texas colleagues. That was always discussed. Everything was discussed. We were observed.