

The Honorable Martha Elizabeth Keys
U.S. Representative of Kansas (1975–1979)

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

Ways and Means Chairmen

Representative Keys compares the leadership of Ways and Means Committee chairmen Al Ullman of Oregon and Dan Rostenkowski of Illinois.

Interview recorded June 14, 2016

Al Ullman, whom I liked very much as a person and agreed with on much more issues was not a good chairman really because he allowed the senior members to just dominate all the time. You know, he did not—whereas Rostenkowski, you also asked for, he was my chair on, on health committee. Rostenkowski, whom I agreed with much, was an excellent chairman. He absolutely did not let people run away with time. He made sure everyone had a chance to be involved. And he was that way the four years that I, that he was my chair on health subcommittee. I never served with him when he was chair of—but it was quite a difference between that. So you had a hard time getting a chance to speak much on Ways and Means when Al Ullman was chair as a very junior member. And, of course, greatly enlarged committee—quite a change for him.