

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

**Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress**

**Waging a Campaign for Ways and Means**

Representative Keys recalls her campaign to win a spot on the influential House Ways and Means Committee.

*Interview recorded June 14, 2016*

So, I developed a letter. Again, they encouraged me to and I wrote the letter but they advised and helped with it. Of course, I had Bill Roy's staff, whom I kept on, all who wanted to stay provisionally for three months, and then I said we'd reassess. But so anyway I did that—sent a letter. I went in. Of course—and, again, I'll tell you the person most responsible for me getting on Way and Means and that's Dick Bolling. Obviously Carl Albert. Anyway, I went in to see Carl Albert. It happened that Joe Fisher and I went in together. He just happened to make an appointment for both of us to come in. And we went in and sat and talked with him quite a long time and we were the two that got on Ways and Means. So, but I did make a real effort for it—kind of waged another campaign for it. And, but, Joe, I mean Don and Arvonne Fraser, who encouraged me to do that, really gave me the idea of writing the letter and sending it to every member of the Democratic Caucus.