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Special Exhibit: Women in Congress

Dress Code for Women Members

Muftiah McCartin discusses the difference in dress code for men and women Representatives.
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The rules of the—of course, you know, I see everything from the procedural perspective, right? So, the rules of the House—there's a dress code for men, and there's not for women. So, men have to wear a tie, they have to wear a coat. They can't wear a hat. Okay, that's not the case. There's nothing. There's no—nothing for a woman. And, you know—so, you have, you know, Lynn, Lynn Martin from Illinois, who's one of my most favorite Members and, you know, she ran for the Senate and lost in a year that was a really bad for Republicans. Like, I—she would have been a magnificent Senator. You know, she would play golf on Friday afternoons, and she'd come in culottes. You know, I said that to my kids, and they were like, "What are culottes?" You know, culottes are like a—I don't know what you would call them nowadays. Squirts or whatever. In her golf—you know, her little tennis shoes, little golf socks, you know, and polo shirts. And people were like, "What the heck?" You know, like, "Where, where is that in the rules?" And there were certain male Members who would, like, pull me aside—they pulled me aside, and say, "Go talk to that Member." I'm like, "You go talk to her. You, you don't want to wear that, I'm not going to go talk to her." And then of course, Bella Abzug with her hats, that was a huge issue, you know, that Charlie Johnson used to deal with. And Charlie used to say the same thing when Members would complain to him about her wearing her hats. You know, he's like, "I'm not going to go tell her that." You know, "I don't see—it's not in the rules."