Representative Morella discusses her inspiration to run for Congress in 1974.

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Commissions for women were being established throughout the country. One was established in my county and I was appointed to it, actually. I had to get the approval of the county council and was appointed. And at that time, I looked around at the status quo of women, apropos of what you said about the role of women, indeed I realized that this was happening all over, that opportunities for women in professions were limited. A woman couldn't even get a credit card without having a male sign for her. So, that, that did not allow her to be able to buy a house or start a—an entrepreneurial position. And, and in education you had no women who were presidents of college, let alone principals of major high schools. And so, I thought, you know, not only do I want this Equal Rights Amendment to be passed by the Maryland legislature, but I think I want to do something more. And so, I, I then say it was the women's movement that put the movement into me—literally that is the case. I, I was teaching at a community college, and I thought, you know, the concept that, "you really need to have a seat at the table, or else you might be on the menu," as they say, you know. And, and that was what inspired me to run for office.