

The Honorable Constance A. Morella
U.S. Representative of Maryland (1987–2003)

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

"Work a Little Harder"

Representative Morella discusses how women Members gain respect in the House.
Interview recorded June 16, 2015

Well, I think, I think some of it, some of the feeling I had then probably still prevails. And that is, in a, let's say in a committee room, it would be in response to something and, you know, I'd maybe, maybe I'd make a comment, or another woman would make a comment, and the chairman would say, "That's, that's very good, thank you very much and so, now we'll turn to 'so and so.'" And then after the third person, a male makes the same thing, same comment, you made and it was, "That is brilliant, you know, Congressman Jones. Let the record show." Yes, but—so, what am I saying? I'm saying that I think women still have to work a little harder to be taken seriously. To be taken seriously. But then, you know, the old Ginger Rogers in high heels dancing backwards and women have been able to handle that.