

Muriel Morisey

Senior Legislative Assistant, Representative Shirley Chisholm of New York

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

Staff and the Impeachment of President Nixon: Part Two

Muriel Morisey remembers her role during and after the Watergate investigation.

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Those of us on the staff, the people I talked to, were torn between if he doesn't resign and there's a Senate trial, many of us will probably have the opportunity to staff that, and that would be very exciting and powerful in a kind of bad way. But the other side was that if he didn't resign, and we ended up working on a Senate trial, it would be horrible, because we were all so physically and emotionally drained—I mean, all-nighters and, and spending our lives for months unable to talk to our spouses or anybody about what was going on. You couldn't talk about your work life outside the room, almost literally that room. And so we were sort of sitting around, you know, finding out like everybody else, you know, Congressman so-and-so's gone to the President and says he, he's going to get impeached, you know, the House will impeach him if he doesn't resign. And then after that, after his resignation, then what was left to do was pack up the boxes, literally, with the files for the National Archives. So if you think of August 9th, President Nixon resigns. I was on the payroll, me and several others, until October, literally getting the files in order for transmission to the National Archives. That's what we did for the rest of August and all of September and part of October, full-time job—several people getting them labeled and organized and put in boxes so that decades later if another impeachment thing came along the files would be in order. Of course, thinking, well, that won't happen.