

Cokie Roberts

Congressional Correspondent and Daughter of Representatives Hale and Lindy Boggs of Louisiana

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

Gender Discrimination

Cokie Roberts recalls the blatant discrimination she and other women faced in the workforce during the 1960s.

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Well, I graduated from college in 1964, so it was legal to say, "We don't hire women to do that," which was said all the time, usually with the hand on your knee. And, and the help-wanted ads were male-female-white-colored. And it was, it was, you know, a woman in the House and a woman in the Senate who basically, you know, stuck sex into the civil rights bill and, and changed the world. But it took a long time for employers to understand that it was illegal for them to say it, and it took brave women bringing suit in many institutions. In my case, in my field, it was women at CBS and *Newsweek* and the *New York Times* who did it, and then affirmative action remedying it. But, so, it was, you know, very, very blatant, very direct discrimination.