

Cokie Roberts

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

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

Influence and Power

Cokie Roberts talks about the difference between indirect influence and those who wield direct political power.

Interview recorded May 25, 2017

I think she really enjoyed—very much enjoyed—being in the position where she was the person making the decision. It's one thing—and I've, I've thought a lot about this and written a lot about this. Women who are not holding the title can have tremendous influence. And often, in many times in our history, the most powerful woman in the country is the First Lady, because she has enormous influence over the most powerful man in the country. But the fact is that having influence is different from being the principal, and being in the room, and being there able to have the direct power. And she liked that. She liked being able to be the person who could use her influence actually to accomplish something herself rather than try it indirectly through someone else.