

Cokie Roberts

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

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

Gender Quota

Cokie Roberts remembers the common practice and consequences of offices hiring only one woman.
Interview recorded May 25, 2017

As time went on, and you got jobs, and did well, there was still always, “Well, but we, we don’t really want to ask, we don’t want to ask you to do that.” Ask me. And, you know, I can make the decision of whether it’s something I want to do or not. And so, it, it, it continued. And then there would be the, “Well, we’ve got our one woman. You know, we don’t need another one.” And often I was the one woman, and that was uncomfortable because I would then feel that others were being excluded. So I spent a huge amount of my career trying to help out other women and bring up other women. But I’ve been very lucky too because I’ve been in workplaces where there’s been tremendous cooperation among the women, and we’ve had each other’s backs.