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Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

Men in Clerical Positions: Part One

Patricia Schwartz discusses entry level positions for men and women on the Hill.
Interview recorded June 22, 2015

And what I noticed changed, the amount of applicants that were coming in increased, but there were more men looking for entry-level clerical support positions. And that was very unique. Well now the women were being challenged. So, it was kind of a unique scenario. Men especially, when they were right out of college, and they're going to conquer the world, and it would be a big like, comeuppance. "Well, do you know how to type?" "I did law papers at school." "Okay. Do you know how to file? Do you know how to draft letters? Do you know how to, do answer phones?" "I can learn." "Okay. Then you can start here. You're going to be the secretary working for the other secretary who's on this committee, on this subcommittee, and you'll provide support for her, and the subcommittee. You just follow her lead." And next thing you know, we had staff assistants who were guys all over the place, and then it got to be, "Well wait a minute, we have all guys now, we have to—" It was just, it was an interesting scenario because they knew that was the way to get on the Hill, especially right from college.