

The Honorable Sue W. Kelly
U.S. Representative of New York (1995–2007)

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

Long Days and Nights at the Capitol

Representative Kelly remembers the hectic schedule during the First 100 Days of the 104th Congress (1995–1997).

Interview recorded June 23, 2016

We, we worked all night one night. That night, I was so keyed up I just couldn't sleep. It was, that was in the first two years that I was there. That night I thought, well—I went into the ladies', the ladies' locker room, so to speak, and there were people lying all over the floor. Every single sofa was—the beds—there were a couple of beds in there—they were occupied. And I thought, "There's all these ladies lying around on the floor, and there's no space, and so I'm going back to my office." I went back to my office, and there was really no place for me to lie down. That's, those, those hard leather sofas are just awful. I couldn't sleep. So, I got up and started to walk. I walked into the Capitol Building and began to look at the beautiful paintings all over the ceilings, and I began to walk through one hall after another and read what had, was written on the ceilings, and had a marvelous time amusing myself, trying to get lost because I didn't know my way around the Capitol very well. I tried to get myself lost, and then I found, I found secret passages and things that I really had a lot of fun all night long.