

Tina Tate

Members, Press, and the Radio—TV Gallery

Explanation of the role of the House Radio-TV Gallery in helping to keep the American public informed about the work of Congress.

Interview recorded December 4, 2009

Yes, I do agree with that. Our job was to make the job of the broadcasters easier. You know, we were support staff for the House of Representatives, but the House of Representatives, as an institution, needs to communicate to the American people what it's doing every day. Every action the House takes has an effect on someone in America or in the world, and the communication of that is largely through the news media. The news media needs a lot of support to do their stories accurately, and our job was to make their job easier. We were not there to promote or dissuade any Member from making any kind of comment, nor were we there to keep a story from being reported, but to make the reporting of it as easy as we could, so that it didn't inconvenience Members, it didn't inconvenience broadcasts, and I think that's not mutually exclusive. There are people who think that it is, that the work of Congress is so often done off-camera, but that is really the background story, and what Congress wants or needs or should be communicating is what we were trying to assist and I didn't think that was ever in conflict. The more the Congress... the more that is known about what Congress is doing, I think the better opinion of what Congress can do and does do for the American people would be higher.