

**Pat Kelly**

**Editor, *Daily Digest*, Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives**

## **The Equal Rights Act Discharge Petition: Part Two**

Memories of Representative Martha Griffiths of Michigan gathering signatures to move the bill out of committee.

*Interview recorded May 29, 2009*

She went around to all the chairmen and talked to them, and she went around to some of the Members who were reticent about it, and wanted to discuss it. And she did that herself. We didn't do that. We didn't have anything—she buttonholed them. And, and she very persuasive, persuasive woman, and, and she had the background to be able to answer their questions very quickly, and so, that was, that was a great help. And she was personable, and people did like her. Not that they would take a stand on that because of that, but because of the information that she provided them with at the time. And that, to me, was just amazing, that she was able to obtain those—

And then, Hale Boggs, at one point, I believe, he said, I think Jerry Ford, did the same thing—Hale Boggs said, “Martha, if you get, when you get to 200, let me know. I want to be 200.” See, see, he wanted to just see how—from Louisiana. What do you, you know. So, you got to remember about all these things is the Member has to consider their district. And, it shouldn't be a detriment to them. But if they knew something about it, and it was explained to them, they could, in turn, explain it to their constituents, if there was any problem. And that's, that's the way she did, she went right to the person involved, and then went to each delegation and around, and, and, and that's how I think she was able to do it. We didn't have to do any of that.