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Madison Club

Recollections of the Madison Club of Brooklyn.

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The first time I went there when my mother was running—I'm sure I went there before this, but it, it just hit me right in the head—I was dressed in my uniform. She told me, "You better come up to the club this afternoon after school. There's something going on here for me," or something like that. "So, don't go home and change, just come up the way you are." So, there I went up. And I walked in and all these peoples were around. And, of course, it's a rally for my mother with the women in the club to get her going in that, in that particular district. So—whatever—but anyway, they were doing something nice for her. So, they asked me to speak. Well, of course, you know, all I said, all I could say, think of saying was, "Well, please vote for my mom." And they all laughed and had a good time and clapped.

No, but anyway, no, we used to go there, I used to go with her every election night and get the results there. And the different people would be taking—Judge Sobel, who had taken my father's spot on the city court, he put down each precinct as they came in. I learned that basic, how they did that. How many votes are in there, how many votes they expected, and all this kind of thing. And then they'd have a column for this, that, and the other, Republican, Democrat, you know, all that. They would have all that there. And it was just very interesting to me. All the wives of the members would be there, so I just was the only child, I guess, for a long time that came to those things. In fact, somebody asked me when I came down to Washington at one time, "How did you get to know all these Congressmen?" I said, "Well I've been seeing them for years and I've been meeting them." And they would all say, again, like my mother, "Miss Kelly, how are you?" And they were from Michigan and all over. So, it was a very, I had an interesting introduction to Washington that has remained with me.