

Kathy Gille

Executive Floor Assistant, Representative David Bonior of Michigan

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

Being Observant

Kathy Gille reflects on the added pressure on women in the workplace and the way this environment forced her to develop important observational skills.

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The way it comes about is sort of a constant pressure to you got to work harder. You've got to be more aware. You probably—I, I was probably a little bit less at ease than, than I think, probably than a lot of my male colleagues because just—you're constantly having to scope out the situation and, and, and try to figure out—and again, I think it kind of helped my developing a strategic sense my—and it was very effective for somebody whose working a whip operation where your job is to actually be incredibly observant about, you know, all the Members in your caucus. That's really mostly what a Whip does is deeply understand who the Members are that they're working with and, you know, what their districts are like, what their temperament is like, who their friends are, who they—how they relate, so that you know how to persuade them or where they'll come out on an issue. So, kind of walking into rooms all the time, having to be that observant, I think actually was, again, kind of, sort of, perversely gave me, you know, some skills that I really needed in the whip job.