

Kathy Gille

Executive Floor Assistant, Representative David Bonior of Michigan

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

Office Attire

Kathy Gille describes how the questions related to workplace attire posed new challenges for women during her career.

Interview recorded February 25, 2016

It was a challenge to figure out what to wear. The men had jackets that had inside pockets, I remember that. And it was really hard to find a women's jacket that had an inside pocket and they all kept, you know, the kind of whatever secrets of the day that were, that were what they were working on and the list of, you know, who needs to be whipped or whatever it is all in this inside pocket. And I was always carrying this folder full of stuff. And I didn't carry a purse, I carried, I carried that folder. And so, yeah, I had to kind of figure that out. There wasn't anybody kind of showing me the way of that. What shoes to wear? Those, those halls are so—the marble is hard. I never was a high-heel type person anyway, but just figuring out shoes that you could wear that would last the whole day and that you could run—because sometimes you had to run from your office to the floor if something was happening.