

**The Honorable Elizabeth Holtzman**  
U.S. Representative of New York (1973–1981)

**Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress**

**“I Never Thought That Women Could Play This Kind of a Role”**

Representative Holtzman emphasizes the importance of serving as a woman on the House Judiciary Committee during the Watergate investigation.

*Interview recorded March 10, 2016*

But I think being on there was really important for the country because for the first time, you saw women participating in a matter of constitutional import and of great gravity to the United States of America. And women's voices were being heard in that. So, I think it was great. And I can't tell you how many people have come up to me over the years and said, you know, "I decided to become a lawyer when I saw you on the committee. I never thought that women could play this kind of a role." So, it opened up the eyes of women to what their possibility could be. It also showed men that women could participate, and had the intelligence and the responsibility to sit in judgment of the President of the United States. I think these were—it was a very, very important educational experience for the country. And I think it was also important that there were not just women, but there were blacks on the committee as well. So, I think—and young people on the committee—so, I think the committee reflected a lot of the country, and it was good that it did. And it, that also, I think, helped people to feel that the committee's recommendations were fair, and solid, and properly grounded.