

**The Honorable Barbara Bailey Kennelly**  
U.S. Representative of Connecticut (1982–1999)

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

**Chairman Rostenkowski's Leadership Style**

Representative Kennelly shares memories of Representative Daniel Rostenkowski of Illinois.  
*Interview recorded September 9, 2015*

You knew exactly what it was. At one time I had in a—I don't know if it was the *Post* or the *Wall Street Journal* or something—about Danny and women and, you know, of course, obviously I was the woman they were asking and I said something about, "Am I going to change Danny Rostenkowski? I don't know, but I'm certainly going to try." Well, he didn't like that at all. And then being such a Representative—and I did represent the insurance companies. A lot of my work on the committee was that and that's how I got some women's issues because I would, you know, I would support people on theirs and then they would support me on—but they don't—one day he spoke and he didn't often speak against an amendment and I had an amendment—an insurance amendment—and I spoke for it and he spoke against it and it won. And they had a wonderful trip after that. It was down—Africa, I think. I didn't go. I did not get invited and I was in the doghouse for quite a while because my amendment won and he had spoken against it. A tough guy—you knew exactly where he stood.