

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

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

Women and the Ways and Means Committee

Representative Kennelly describes the assumptions surrounding women on the Ways and Means Committee.

Interview recorded September 9, 2015

Oh, I could tell you a story about one of the reasons that Dan Rostenkowski—and by the way, I adored him, you know. Listen, if you can't have a few fights with somebody, the relationship isn't worth anything. But anyway, I, I did adore him, but when he wasn't particularly happy about me coming on a committee—Andy Jacobs was on the committee and he had married Martha Keys and then they got divorced. And one of, one of the arguments that Danny used was, "We don't want to have that happen again." I took a good look at the committee. "Who would I want on that committee?" You know, you know, it's a, it's a weird place. It's a great place. You all become very close.