

Gwendolyn Mink

Daughter of the Honorable Patsy Takemoto Mink of Hawaii

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

Criticism of Representative Mink: Part One

Gwendolyn Mink describes the way her mother dealt with criticism.

Interview recorded March 14, 2016

Well, I think that her view was that you can't be afraid of provoking harsh opposition. That can't be the measure of how you proceed, or whether you proceed. So, she was willing to say things that other people weren't willing to say, and willing to take the flak for it, although it certainly wasn't pleasant. She didn't want to say things just for the sake of saying them. She wanted to link arguments that she might make to the possibility of change either immediately or building towards change down the road. But, you know, drive-time radio, which happened even in the 1950s, we had this character called, whose name was Joe Rose who had a primetime—not a primetime—a drive-time, in the morning, radio program, who like almost every day was calling her "Pink Mink," and you know, sort of haranguing about the communists in the territorial legislator, legislature, and so forth. And I would hear this at the age of six, and she would just sort of explain that some people have hysterical reactions when they don't agree, you know. And sort of left it at that. And that kind of thing didn't ever make her want to, I don't know, retract, or be quiet, or anything like that.