

## **Gwendolyn Mink**

**Daughter of the Honorable Patsy Takemoto Mink of Hawaii**

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

#### **Criticism of Representative Mink: Part Two**

Gwendolyn Mink describes the different ways her mother was criticized for her political positions.

*Interview recorded March 14, 2016*

I think they were all sort of connected. The—she wasn't so much explicitly attacked as, for being female, as insidiously attacked for being female. So, there would be little whispers about, "is she taking proper care of her child," as a way of dismissing her aspirations to elected office. Or, there would be sort of, you know, gales of laughter when she introduced legislation for equal pay for equal work for women into the territorial legislation in 19—legislature in 1957, and people introduced "husbands' rights" bills, you know to, so that husbands would have rights to some of their wives' equal pay, and, you know, junk like that. So that, for, on the gender thing, there was this demeaning and trivializing, and fun-making, and disparaging, rather than sort of the, the attack against the communist. Right, the attack against the communist came over issues of war and peace, and military build-up, and whether or not we should have a nuclear test ban treaty, and, and things like that.