

Patricia (Tish) Speed Schwartz
Chief Clerk/Administrator, House Committee on the Judiciary

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

Clerical Pool

Patricia Schwartz recalls the responsibilities of the clerical pool for the House Science Committee in the early 1970s.

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They were clerical, all clerical support. I don't, when I first started, everybody was on a Mr. and Miss, or Mrs. basis. In other words, I was Miss Speed—that was my maiden name. And it was Mr. Ducander and Mr. Goulden, and very, very proper. And the women were sitting in a clerical pool in the front of the office. And all of the men had their offices in the back, and you literally would get a phone call, "Come on back, I want to give dictation." So you'd go back take dictation, come back, type it up in three sets: you know, the pink, the blue, the yellow. And then that's pretty much what you did. It was a little typing pool.