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WOMEN'S BUREAU  
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## WOMEN IN THE 80TH CONGRESS \*/

Seven women now serve in the 80th Congress, all of them in the House of Representatives. There are no women in the Senate. The women representatives, in order of their length of service in Congress, are: Mrs. Mary T. Norton, Democrat of New Jersey; Mrs. Edith House Rogers, Republican of Massachusetts; Mrs. Frances P. Bolton, Republican of Ohio; Mrs. Margaret Chase Smith, Republican of Maine; Mrs. Helen Gahagan Douglas, Democrat of California; and -- newcomers to Congress this year -- Mrs. Georgia L. Lusk, Democrat of New Mexico, and Mrs. Katharine St. George, Republican of New York.

Mrs. Mary T. Norton, Democrat from the 13th District of New Jersey (Bayonne and parts of Jersey City) is the unofficial "dean" of Congresswomen, by virtue of seniority. The first woman to be elected to Congress from the Democratic Party, she has served continuously since 1924. Born in 1875 in Jersey City, she attended public schools there and took a secretarial course in a New York City business school, after which she worked as a stenographer and secretary until 1909, when she married Robert Francis Norton.

After her marriage she became active in child welfare work, and in the course of her charitable activities she often arranged for municipal help at the City Hall, where she met Mayor Frank Hague who asked her in June 1920 to become the representative of Hudson County women on the State Democratic Committee. In 1921 she was elected vice chairman of the State Democratic Committee, serving on the Committee until 1944, 5 years of this time as chairman. In 1923 she was elected Freeholder in Hudson County, and in 1924 she was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention. Mrs. Norton was elected to Congress in 1924, as the representative from the Jersey City district of New Jersey. In 1931, when appointed chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on the District of Columbia, she became the first woman ever to head a Congressional committee. She was chairman for 6 years. In 1937 she was named chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on Labor. During the 10 years in which Mrs. Norton was head of the House Labor Committee, she helped to steer through Congress much important labor legislation, including the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act, which established a minimum wage rate for employees of firms engaged in interstate commerce.

Mrs. Norton was appointed by President Truman in 1945 as Government Representative and Observer to the International Labor Conference in Paris, France.

After the 80th Congress convened (1947), she resigned from the Committee on Labor, and at present is ranking minority member of the Committee on House Administration.

\*/ The information used in these biographical notes comes from material supplied by the Congresswomen, and from material appearing in the Congressional Directory, Current Biography, Who's Who in America, and Who's Who in New York.

Mrs. Edith Mourse Rogers, Republican from the 5th District of Massachusetts (cities of Lowell, Woburn, and 27 towns), has been in Congress since 1925. She was born in 1881 in Saco, Maine; was graduated from Rogers Hall School in Lowell, Massachusetts; and attended Madame Julien's School in Paris, France. In 1907 she married John Jacob Rogers, a lawyer who served in the House of Representatives from 1913 till his death in 1925.

Mrs. Rogers has an especial interest in veterans' affairs, which dates back to the First World War, when she served in France with the YMCA and the American Red Cross. From 1918 to 1922 she was a Red Cross worker at the Army's national hospital, Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D. C. In recognition of her work for veterans' welfare, President Harding appointed her in 1922 as his personal representative in charge of assistance for disabled veterans, a position to which she was reappointed by President Coolidge in 1923 and by President Hoover in 1929.

Mrs. Rogers was elected to the House of Representatives of the 69th Congress, June 30, 1925, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of her husband. She was reelected to the 70th and to every succeeding Congress. For years she served as the ranking Republican member on the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House. She was a delegate to the Inter-American Conference on Problems of War and Peace at Mexico City in February 1945.

Mrs. Rogers was overseas during both World War I and World War II. Early in World War II she introduced the bill creating the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, later established as the Women's Army Corps (WAC).

In the present (80th) Congress, she is chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

*Republican*  
Mrs. Frances P. Bolton, Representative from the 22nd District of Ohio (parts of Cleveland and suburbs), has been a member of Congress since 1940. She was born in 1886 in Cleveland, Ohio, and was educated in private schools in the United States and in France; she also studied at the Mannes Music School in New York City. In 1907 she was married to Chester Castle Bolton; she is the mother of three sons and now has four grandsons and one granddaughter.

From the time she returned from school to her home in Cleveland, she took an active part in philanthropic and civic activities. Interested in all health matters and active in both public health nursing and nursing education in Cleveland, Mrs. Bolton's endowment of the School of Nursing of Western Reserve University there was incident to her many years of active participation in the building of the school. She is an honorary member of the Alumni of the Army School of Nursing because of the part she played during the First World War in its establishment.

Mrs. Bolton served on the Republican State Central Committee in Ohio from 1938 to 1940, and as vice-chairman of the National Republican Program Committee during the same period. Elected in February 1940 to the House of Representatives of the 76th Congress to fill the unexpired term of her husband, she has served continuously since then. At the beginning of World War II, prior to the establishment of the U. S. Cadet Nurse Corps under the Bolton Act, she was instrumental in securing funds to increase the teaching capacity of many schools of nursing.

Mrs. Bolton has been a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives since January 1941. She has worked successfully for the passage of the Greek-Turkish Loan Bill and of relief bills for Europe. She is now chairman of the Geographical Subcommittee on Africa and of Subcommittee No. 5 on National and International Movements. The latter subcommittee will study under her leadership world movements such as communism, fascism, nationalist movements

Mrs. Margaret Chase Smith, Republican from the 2nd District of Maine, has been a member of Congress since June 1940 and is the first and only woman to represent Maine in the U. S. House of Representatives. She was born in Skowhegan, Maine, in 1897 and graduated from high school in 1916. After graduation she was successively a teacher, an executive for the Maine Telephone and Telegraph Company, an executive in a newspaper company, treasurer of a waste process company, and, concurrently with the latter job, an executive for a woolen company.

In May 1930 she married Clyde H. Smith, a former State Senator, and became active in politics, being elected in 1930 to the Republican State Committee. In 1936 when her husband was elected to the U. S. House of Representatives, she worked as his secretary, managing office work, handling mail, and doing research on the subjects of various bills. When her husband died in 1940, Mrs. Smith was elected to fill his unexpired term. She was chairman of the Maine State Republican Convention in 1944.

At her request, in 1943 she was placed on the House of Representatives Naval Affairs Committee; she attributed her wish to work with this committee to Maine's long coastline, and to its shipbuilding and Navy Yard interests.

In April 1944, she served as one of 13 advisers to the U. S. Government delegation at the International Labor Conference meeting in Philadelphia.

During World War II Mrs. Smith was a member of the only Congressional committee ever to draw the official commendation of the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the House Naval Affairs Subcommittee on Congested Areas, whose work the President termed an outstanding contribution to the successful prosecution of the war. She made an extensive study throughout the Pacific in 1944, and the Secretary of the Navy adopted her recommendations for the benefit of fighting Naval personnel.

Mrs. Smith is a member of the Armed Services Committee of the House of Representatives. As chairman of the Committee's Medical Subcommittee, Mrs. Smith was the first member of Congress to obtain unification of legislation requested by the Army and by the Navy. Mrs. Smith required that separate Army bills and separate Navy bills on nurses corps and medical services be combined into single and uniform bills to cover both the Army and the Navy.

She is a proponent of Reserve legislation for the Armed Services, having introduced legislation on all major phases of Reserve interest and covering all branches of the Armed Services, and having introduced more Reserve bills in the 80th Congress than any other member of Congress.

Mrs. Smith says that while she is a champion for women, she is not a feminist. She believes that "a woman's viewpoint should be objective and free of any emphasis on feminine interests."

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Mrs. Helen Gahagan Douglas, Democrat from the 14th District of California, (part of Los Angeles) first elected to Congress in 1944, was re-elected in 1946. She was born in 1900 in Boonton, New Jersey, was educated in private schools, and attended Barnard College. She left Barnard College after two years for a star part on Broadway. In 1926 she began to study voice and later made a concert tour of Europe. Returning to the United States in 1930, she again starred on the stage, where she met Melvyn Douglas. They were married in 1931. Mrs. Douglas has two children.

It was not until after her return from a concert tour of Europe in 1937, with its opportunities to observe and interpret conditions there, that Mrs. Douglas became actively engaged in civic affairs. She served on the National Advisory Committee of the Works Progress Administration and on the California State Advisory Committee of the National Youth Administration. In 1940 she was elected Democratic National Committeewoman for California and was appointed vice-chairman of the Democratic State Committee in 1941. She was also elected chairman of this Committee's Women's Division and unanimously re-elected in 1942.

In July 1946 President Truman appointed Mrs. Douglas as an alternate United States delegate to the General Assembly of the United Nations.

In the present (80th) Congress, she is a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives.

Mrs. Georgia L. Lusk, Democrat of New Mexico, and Mrs. Katharine St. George, Republican of New York, are serving in Congress for the first time this year.

Mrs. Georgia L. Lusk, Democrat of Santa Fe, New Mexico, is one of New Mexico's two representatives at large. She was born in Carlsbad, New Mexico, in 1893; was educated in public schools in New Mexico, and at New Mexico State Teachers College, Highlands University, and Colorado State Teachers College. For several years she taught school and in 1919 was elected county school superintendent of Lea County, New Mexico. She was elected State Superintendent of Public Instruction for the terms 1930-34 and 1942-46. In addition to her work in the educational field, she has engaged in the ranching business for 20 years. She is a widow and has three sons, all of whom served with the Armed Forces during World War II. Her oldest son was killed in line of duty.

She is a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives.

Mrs. Katharine St. George, Republican from the 29th District of New York, was born in England, where her father was European editor of Forum magazine. Since the age of 18, however, she has lived in Tuxedo, New York. Married to George Baker St. George in 1917, she has one daughter and two grandchildren.

Her interest in politics is of long standing. She was a member of the Tuxedo town board for 15 years, and for 20 years was a member of the Tuxedo Board of Education, serving for a time as its president. She was the first woman to be elected chairman of a Republican County Committee in New York State and is now one of the two women chairmen in the State. Among her other activities are those of: former president of the Tuxedo Republican Club, former president of the Orange County Federation of Women's Republican Clubs, director of the Women's National Republican Club, delegate from Orange County to the 1944 Republican National Convention.

She is now a member of the Post Office and Civil Service Committee of