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WOMEN IN THE 81st CONGRESS

The 81st Congress, convened on January 3, 1949, includes 9 women, an increase of 2 over the 80th Congress. This year a woman serves in the Senate as the elected representative of her State for the first time since 1944, when Senator Hattie Caraway, Democrat of Arkansas was defeated for reelection after having served two full 6-year terms in addition to an unexpired term of her late husband.

Mrs. Margaret Chase Smith, Republican from Maine, for nearly 9 years a member of the House of Representatives from Maine's 2d District, became on September 13, 1948, the first Republican woman elected to a full-fledged term in the United States Senate and the only woman elected to a full 6-year term without first being appointed.

Born in Skowhegan in 1897, her business career began immediately after graduation from the Skowhegan high school in 1916. She has been a teacher, an executive for the Maine Telephone & Telegraph Company, an executive in a newspaper company, treasurer of a waste process company, and 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 that year to the Republican State Committee. In 1936, when her husband was elected to the U. S. House of Representatives, she worked as his secretary and office assistant, managing the office work, handling mail, and doing research on the subjects of various bills. When her husband died in 1940, she was elected to fill his unexpired term, and she has been reelected to every Congress since then. In 1944 she was chairman of the Maine State Republican Convention. Also during that year she served as one of 13 advisers to the U. S. Government delegation to the International Labor Conference meeting in Philadelphia.

At her request she was placed in 1943 on the House of Representatives Naval Affairs Committee. This assignment sent her with a subcommittee of 10 on a 25,000-mile inspection tour of the Pacific war theater, and in 1944 the Secretary of the Navy adopted her recommendations for the benefit of fighting Naval personnel. She was also a member of the House Naval Affairs Subcommittee on Congested Areas, the only Congressional committee ever to draw the official commendation of the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt. She was the first woman member of the important Armed Services Committee of the House of Representatives and, as chairman of the Armed Services Medical Subcommittee, was the first Member of Congress to obtain unification of legislation requested by the Army and by the Navy. In the fall of 1947 Mrs. Smith was assigned by the Armed Services Committee to an inspection trip through European countries.

In the 1948 primary in Maine Mrs. Smith polled, as a Senatorial candidate, a record vote over three opponents and had twice as many votes.

as her major opponent. In the 81st Congress she is a member of the District of Columbia and of the Expenditures in the Executive Departments Committees. As chairman of the Health and Public Welfare Subcommittee of the District Committee she is the only Republican in the 81st Congress, either House or Senate, to be chairman of a committee or a subcommittee.

The Women's National Press Club gave Mrs. Smith their Politics Achievement Award for 1948, and the Associated Press named her the 1948 "Woman of the Year."

While she is a champion for women, Mrs. Smith says, she is not a feminist. She believes that "a woman's viewpoint should be objective and free of any emphasis on feminine interests." It is important, though, she thinks, for more women to qualify for public office, for responsibility for good government rests equally on men and women. As a word of encouragement she says, "We can't all be Members of Congress and the Senate, but there must be good people working all down the line, on school boards, civic organizations, community chest boards, church groups, and community projects.... We must remember that America has been made great, not from Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, but from the Main Streets in our villages."

Unofficial "dean" of Congresswomen, by virtue of seniority, is Mrs. Mary T. Norton, Democrat from the 13th District of New Jersey (Bayonne and parts of Jersey City). Mrs. Norton has served in the U. S. House of Representatives 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 college, after which she worked as a secretary until 1909, when she married Robert Francis Norton.

After her marriage she became active in child welfare and Red Cross work and served as the chairman of one of the largest Red Cross units in the State of New Jersey during World War I. Because of her outstanding work in these social service groups, Mayor Frank Hague suggested in June of 1920 that she represent Hudson County women on the State Democratic Committee, and in 1923 she was elected Freeholder in Hudson County, the first woman to be so elected in Hudson County and in New Jersey. Her work on the State Committee and as a Freeholder led to her election to Congress in 1924. She has served as vice-chairman and later as chairman of the State Democratic Committee, and consistently from 1924 to 1948 she has been a delegate at large to the Democratic National Convention. In 1944 she served as co-chairman of the Platform Committee and in 1948 as chairman of the Credentials Committee of the Convention.

Mrs. Norton was the first woman to be elected to Congress from the Democratic Party and the first woman from the East from any political party. In 1930 she became the first woman ever to head a Congressional committee--the House of Representatives Committee on the District of Columbia, which she presided over for 7 years. Probably Mrs. Norton's best-known work, though, is associated with the important House Labor Committee; she was its head for 10 years prior to the 80th (Republican-controlled) Congress, when she resigned from the committee. As its head, she had helped to steer through Congress several major labor laws, including the Federal Fair Labor

Standards Act establishing a minimum wage rate for employees of firms engaged in interstate commerce. Mrs. Norton's interest and experience in labor affairs were further recognized in 1945 when President Truman appointed her Government Representative and Adviser to the International Labor Conference in Paris, France.

Mrs. Norton is at the present time chairman of the House Committee on House Administration. She is the only Member of Congress who has served as chairman of three committees of Congress.

Representative Norton received the first degree of Doctor of Laws, in 1930, ever conferred by Saint Elizabeth's College, the oldest woman's college in New Jersey, in recognition of service in welfare and government, and in 1937 she was awarded the degree of Doctor of Laws by Rider College, Trenton, New Jersey. The Women's National Press Club selected her in 1946 as one of the ten outstanding women of the country and the outstanding woman in Government for that year.

Mrs. Edith Mourse Rogers, Republican from the 5th District of Massachusetts (cities of Lowell and Woburn and 27 towns), has been in Congress since 1925. She was born in 1881 in Saco, Maine, and was graduated from Rogers Hall School in Lowell, Massachusetts, and 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 Y.W.C.A. 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 80th Congress she was chairman of the House of Representatives' Committee on Veterans' Affairs; at present she is ranking minority member.

Mrs. Frances P. Bolton, Republican 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 music for a time in New York City. In 1907 she was married to Chester Castle Bolton; she is the mother of three sons and has eight grandchildren.

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 there of the School of Nursing of Western Reserve University 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 from 1937 to 1940. 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. As chairman of the Subcommittee having to do with National and International Movements, Mrs. Bolton was the first woman to take a committee out on a field trip. Her supervision of the work of this subcommittee in the preparation of a report on "The Strategy and Tactics of World Communism" and a supplement containing a report on "Communism in China" has been a contribution receiving wide recognition.

Mrs. Helen Cahagan Douglas, Democrat from the 14th District of California (part of Los Angeles), was first elected to Congress in 1944 and was reelected in 1946 and 1948. Born in 1900 in Boonton, New Jersey, she was educated in private schools and attended Barnard College. After two years at Barnard she left for a star part on Broadway. In 1926 she began to study voice and later made opera tours of Europe. On her return to the United States in 1930, she again starred on the stage, where she met Melvyn Douglas, to whom she was 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 Work 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 Central Committee

in 1941. She was also elected chairman of the Women's Division of the Democratic State Central Committee and in 1942 was reelected vice chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee.

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

She is a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives.

Mrs. Katharine St. George, Republican from the 29th District of New York (southeastern section, including suburbs of New York City), 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 she was a member of the Tuxedo Board of Education, serving for a time as its president. She was one of the first women to be elected chairman of a Republican County Committee in New York State.

Among her other activities are those of: former president of the Tuxedo Republican Club and of the Orange County Federation of Women's Republican Clubs; former member of the Council of New York State Republican Women, Inc.; delegate from Orange County to the 1944 Republican National Convention; member of the New York State Agricultural Society and the Orange County Home Bureau; member of the Orange County Chamber of Commerce; chairman of the Tuxedo Chapter of the American Red Cross for 10 years and an officer for 20 years. During World War II she was a representative on the WAC Recruitment program and member of the board of governors of the New York Military Service Club.

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

Mrs. Chase Going Woodhouse, Democrat, from the 2d District of Connecticut (eastern section, including New London), after first serving in the 79th Congress, was re-elected to the 81st Congress, defeating the Republican incumbent to whom she lost her House seat in 1946.

She was born on the West Coast and received her education at schools in Kentucky, California, and South Dakota, and at McGill University in Canada, where she was the first woman to win honors in economics. She also did graduate work at the University of Chicago and the University of Berlin.

Mrs. Woodhouse already had an outstanding career as an economist behind her before coming to Congress. She had taught at Smith College, the University of Texas, Teachers College of Columbia University, Connecticut College, and elsewhere, and had served as senior economist of the U. S. Bureau of Home Economics.

Her first venture into politics was as candidate for the City Council of New London. She served for many years as president of the Connecticut Federation of Democratic Women's Clubs and in 1941-1942 was elected Secretary of the State of Connecticut. While in Congress in 1946-1948 she took an active part in legislation concerning the Bretton Woods Agreements, the British loan, housing, and legislation affecting the consumer.

From February 1947 to April 1948, between her terms in Congress, Mrs. Woodhouse was executive director, Women's Division, Democratic National Committee. She resigned this position to become a visiting expert in Germany for the Secretary of the Army; there she helped develop understanding among German women of their rights and responsibilities as citizens of a democracy.

In the 81st, as in the 79th Congress, Mrs. Woodhouse is a member of the Banking and Currency Committee of the House of Representatives.

Mrs. Woodhouse is the mother of two children and has two grandchildren.

Mrs. Reva Beck Bosone, Democrat of the 2d District of Utah, serving in Congress for the first time this year, is the first woman elected to Congress from Utah. She was born in American Fork, Utah, and attended Westminster College in Salt Lake City and the University of California, from which she has an A.B. degree. Beginning her career as a teacher, she later received an LL.B. degree from the University of Utah and has been a member of the bar since 1930.

As a member of the Utah State Legislature from 1933 to 1935, Mrs. Bosone was responsible for the passage of the Child Labor Amendment and the State Unemployment Insurance Law, and she was the author of the State Minimum Wage and Hour Law for Women and Children. The only woman ever elected floor leader in the Utah State Legislature, she was also the first woman ever named to the important Sifting Committee, through which all bills had to pass before they reached the floor, and she became its chairman.

Elected in 1936 to the Salt Lake City bench, she is the first woman ever to preside in a Utah court. As her initial assignment she took over the Police Court, where her handling of traffic cases was so outstanding that when, under the city's rotating system, the time came for change of assignments, every traffic safety and civic organization demanded that she continue her traffic work. She was elected to her third term as a city judge in 1945. In recognition of her public service in the rehabilitation of alcoholics and juvenile delinquents, Mrs. Bosone was named to the Utah Hall of Fame in 1943.

Mrs. Bosone has one child.

In the 81st Congress she is a member of the House of Representatives Committee on Public Lands and of the Subcommittee on Irrigation and Reclamation, Territories and Insular Possessions, and Indian Affairs.

Republican newcomer to Congress this year is Mrs. Cecil Murray Harden, Representative from the 6th District of Indiana (west central section, including Terre Haute and Covington). Born in Covington, Indiana, November 21, 1894, she attended public schools in Covington and, later, Indiana University. Until her marriage to Frost P. Harden in 1914, she taught in Troy township and Covington public schools.

Mrs. Harden has been identified with Republican party work since 1932, when she was elected a precinct vice-committeewoman. Since 1938 she has been county vice-chairman for Fountain County, a congressional district vice-chairman, and a member of the State Central Committee. Elected in 1944 a Republican National Committeewoman for Indiana, her party responsibilities have continuously increased, and in 1948 she was a member of the Arrangements Committee for the Republican National Convention and also a delegate at large from Indiana. She became involved in the Congressional race when appointed to replace a Republican candidate from the 6th district, who withdrew to accept a judgeship. She was elected to the 81st Congress and is now serving on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mrs. Harden is a popular speaker, having filled many engagements through arrangements of the Indiana Republican State Speakers' Bureau and the Republican National Committee Speakers' Bureau. Active in many local, civic, and national affairs, she is a charter member of the Business and Professional Women's Club and belongs to the Daughters of the American Revolution, Order of the Eastern Star, Kappa Kappa Kappa sorority, the Covington Presbyterian Church, the Indiana Federation of Women's Clubs, and the American Legion Auxiliary.

The Hardens have one son, Dr. Murray E. Harden, who with his wife and three children lives in Indianapolis, Indiana.