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Women

of the 86th Congress

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
JAMES P. MITCHELL, *Secretary*

WOMEN'S BUREAU
MRS. ALICE K. LEOPOLD, *Director*

1959

There are seventeen women Members of the 86th Congress. One is a Senator and sixteen are Members of the House of Representatives. Their records show outstanding devotion to humanitarian issues in both the domestic and international field and their achievements include measures of vital importance to the people of the United States. I believe that all Americans will find these biographical sketches both informative and inspiring.

Clara K. Lospald

Assistant to the Secretary of Labor
and
Director of the Women's Bureau

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SENATOR MARGARET CHASE SMITH (R)

State of Maine

Mrs. Margaret Chase Smith of Skowhegan, Me., is the only woman Senator in the 86th Congress. First elected in 1948 and reelected in 1954, she is the first Republican woman in history to be chosen for a second 6-year senatorial term and the only woman to have been elected and serve in both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

In the 81st Congress, Mrs. Smith was a member of the Senate Republican Policy Committee, the first woman to serve on this committee. She was a member of the Senate Committee on Expenditures in the Executive Departments and the Senate Rules and Administration Committee in the 82d Congress. Now in the 86th Congress, she is a member of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, the Armed Services and Space Committees. She is also a member of the Preparedness Investigating Subcommittee.

Prior to her senatorial term, Mrs. Smith had completed 8½ years as a member of the House of Representatives from the Second Congressional District of Maine. First elected in June 1940, to complete the unexpired term of her late husband, Clyde H. Smith, she became the first woman to serve on the Armed Services Committee. During World War II, she visited naval bases at home and in the Pacific. In October 1947, she was the only woman in the House group that visited 16 countries in Asia, Africa and Europe. In 1953 and 1954 she was Chairman of the Ammunition Shortage Investigating and Reorganization Subcommittee.

After graduation from Skowhegan High School, Mrs. Smith began her career as a teacher, and was an executive in the telephone, newspaper, and woolen industries. She wrote a nationally syndicated column for more than 5 years.

An active participant in Maine Republican Party work, Mrs. Smith was a member of the State Committee for 6 years (1930-1936) and permanent chairman of the party's State convention in 1944. Prominent in women's organizations she has been president of the Maine Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs.

In addition to being cited repeatedly by national press and broadcasting organizations as woman of the year in politics, Mrs. Smith has received many national honors, including: Freedom Award for Americanism from Freedoms Foundation (1950); Voice of Democracy Award (1953); Distinguished Service Award from National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs (1955); Lord and Taylor Award (1956); and International Achievement (1956) and Woman of Achievement Awards (1958) from Soroptimist International Association.

Mrs. Smith has received the honorary degree of LL.D. from the following colleges and universities: Wilson College (1945); Alabama College (1949); Coe College (1949); University of Maine (1949); Smith College (1949); Syracuse University (1952); Bowdoin College (1952); University of New Brunswick (Canada, 1955); Columbia University (1955); University of North Carolina Woman's College (1955); Tufts University (1955); Wesleyan University (1955); Drexel Institute (1955); Russell Sage College (1956); University of Rhode Island (1956); Western College for Women (1956); Mills College (1957); Washington College (1957); Gettysburg College (1958); and George Washington University (1958). She has received the degree of L.H.D. from Hood College (1951); Hamilton College (1955); Lafayette College (1955); Rollins College (1956); and that of Litt.D. from Temple University (1955). She also holds the degrees of A.M. from Colby College (1943), D.C.L. from Pace College (1956), and J.S.D. from Portia Law School (1957).

An outstanding proponent of Reserve legislation in Congress, Mrs. Smith has served as a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Air Force Reserve. She has made extensive trips throughout the world and conferred with many leaders of nations. She is regarded as one of America's effective ambassadors of good will.



REPRESENTATIVE IRIS FAIRCLOTH BLITCH (D)

Eighth Congressional District, Georgia

Mrs. Iris Faircloth Blitch was elected to the 84th Congress and reelected to the 85th and 86th Congresses. She is a member of the House Public Works Committee.

Mrs. Blitch is the only woman in the history of Georgia to have served in the State Senate twice. She was elected in 1946 and again in 1952 and also served one term in the House of Representatives of Georgia.

Active in the Democratic Party since 1936, she was Democratic National Committeewoman from Georgia from 1948 to 1956 and also served on the 11-person Executive Committee of the Democratic National Committee. She was Assistant Secretary of the State Democratic Committee from 1946 to 1950, Acting Secretary in 1950, and Assistant Secretary again from 1951 to 1954. She was a prime mover in the passage of the bill giving women the right to serve on juries in Georgia.

Mrs. Blitch was educated at the University of Georgia and South Georgia College. Her civic participation includes service in the Chamber of Commerce, Parent-Teachers Association, Business and Professional Women's Club, and the Woman's Club. In 1957 she was named Woman of the Year by the Progressive Farmer.

Congresswoman Blitch was the author of a bill which was enacted into law to preserve and protect the great Okefenokee Swamp. She favors legislation to preserve States rights, including the right of States to control the public schools. She is interested in soil conservation and water programs that will protect the farmers in her State.



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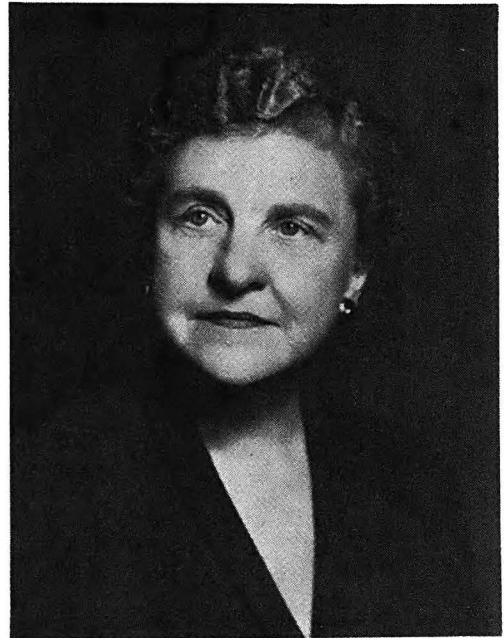
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REPRESENTATIVE FRANCES P. BOLTON (R)

Twenty-second Congressional District, Ohio

Mrs. Frances P. Bolton is the only woman from Ohio ever elected to Congress. Elected in February 1940 to finish the unexpired term of her late husband, Chester C. Bolton, she has been reelected each succeeding term. In the 86th Congress, Mrs. Bolton is the second ranking Republican member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, having served on that Committee for 18 years. She was chairman of the Subcommittee on National and International Movements, which issued the report "Strategy and Tactics of World Communism."

Mrs. Bolton became the first woman Member of Congress ever to head an official Congressional mission abroad when she led a subcommittee to the Near East in 1947. As top Republican on the Subcommittee on Africa and the Near East, Mrs. Bolton made a 20,000-mile study tour of Africa in 1955, visiting 24 countries south and east of the Sahara Desert. In March of 1957 she was one of four official delegates named by the President to attend the independence ceremonies of Ghana. Congresswoman Bolton was U.S. Delegate to the Eighth General Assembly of the United Nations (1953), the first woman to represent the Congress in that body.



Mrs. Bolton has sponsored bills for low-rent housing units, equal pay for women, and legislation making it unlawful to "black market" children across State lines for adoption. She was author of the Act which created the Cadet Nurse Corps, and was instrumental not only in equalizing the pay of nurses with that of male officers of similar rank, but also in changing the status of nurses from relative to full commissioned rank as officers in the armed services. She successfully sponsored legislation to commission men nurses as reserve officers in the armed services, thereby giving proper recognition to an important segment of the nursing profession.

Mrs. Bolton's interest in nursing led to her endowment of the Frances P. Bolton School of Nursing at Western Reserve University in Cleveland. During the First World War she helped establish the Army School of Nursing. In the 84th Congress, she introduced legislation to establish a National Commission of Nursing Services, and to authorize the Surgeon General to provide traineeships for graduate nurses.

Educated at the Hathaway-Brown School in Cleveland and Miss Spence's School in New York, Mrs. Bolton has been awarded honorary degrees of LL.D. by Colgate University (1940), Ohio Wesleyan University (1942), Kenyon College (1947), Wooster College (1948), Fenn College (1953), Oberlin College (1953), Heidelberg College (1954); and L.H.D. by Western Reserve University (1944), Baldwin-Wallace College (1944), Western College for Women (1957), and Tuskegee Institute (1957). She also received the William Freeman Snow Award of the American Social Hygiene Association (1949), the Adelaide Nutting Award from the National League of Nursing Education (1951), a special scroll for service from the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses (1951), and the National Award for Distinguished Service to the United States from Women for Achievement (1951).

The Ohio Congresswoman is an officer of the French Legion of Honor. She is vice-regent of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, and a member of the following organizations: Cleveland Business and Professional Women's Club; Women's City Club of Cleveland; League of Women Voters, Cleveland; Daughters of Colonial Wars of Ohio; Daughters of the American Revolution; Women's National Republican Club of New York; Pen and Brush of New York; League of Republican Women, Washington, D. C. and the Society of Women Geographers, Washington, D. C.

REPRESENTATIVE MARGUERITE STITT CHURCH (R)

Thirteenth Congressional District, Illinois

Mrs. Marguerite Stitt Church is serving her fifth consecutive term in Congress. She was first elected in November 1950.

For 6 years Mrs. Church has been a member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, and serves in the 86th Congress on three of its subcommittees: Far East and the Pacific; Foreign Economic Policy; and National Security and Scientific Developments Affecting Foreign Policy. She also served 4 years on the House Committee on Government Operations.

During her 8 years in Congress she has introduced major measures to implement recommendations of the Hoover Commissions for efficiency and economy in Government and taken an active role in working for international peace. In 1953 she flew to Southeast Asian countries and in 1955 went around the world with the Committee on Foreign Affairs studying conditions both in the Middle East and the Far East including Afghanistan. In 1957 she extended her study mission to the Middle East to include a large part of Africa. In 1958, she was one of the two official House Delegates to the inauguration of the President of Mexico.



Congresswoman Church has a strong interest in legislation affecting the education, health, and protection of children. She has sponsored legislation which was later enacted to prohibit transporting fireworks into any State where they are illegal. In the 85th and 86th Congresses, she introduced bills to increase equal pension benefits to women through a revision of the Social Security, Civil Service Retirement, and Railroad Retirement Acts.

A member of many civil and welfare organizations, Mrs. Church has served as a member of the board of the Family Welfare Association of Evanston, Ill.; the Illinois Children's Home and Aid Society; Infant Welfare Society; and Chicago Maternity Center. In addition she served as president of the Congressional Club in Washington, D. C., and as president of the National Alumnae Association of Wellesley College.

Mrs. Church is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Wellesley College, where her major studies were in economics, psychology, and sociology. She holds an A.M. degree in political science from Columbia University and an honorary LL.D. from Russell Sage College.

REPRESENTATIVE FLORENCE P. DWYER (R)

Sixth Congressional District, New Jersey

Mrs. Florence P. Dwyer is serving her second term in the 86th Congress as New Jersey's first Republican Congresswoman. She is a member of the House Committees on Government Operations and Banking and Currency and ranking minority member of the Intergovernmental Relations Subcommittee of the Government Operations Committee.

Mrs. Dwyer and her husband, M. Joseph Dwyer, now retired, have lived in Elizabeth, N.J., for 30 years.

Active in the Republican Party since 1936, Mrs. Dwyer was elected delegate-at-large to the Republican National Convention in 1944 and made honorary vice president representing New Jersey. She was elected alternate delegate-at-large to the 1948 Convention.

Mrs. Dwyer was elected to the New Jersey State Legislature in 1949 and reelected in 1951, 1953 and 1955. She was the first woman to be appointed for 5 consecutive years to the important policy-making committee of the legislature, and the second woman in the State's history to be appointed assistant majority leader of the State assembly. As chairman of the assembly's education committee and a delegate to the 1955 White House Conference on Education, she gained wide recognition for her legislative work in the field of education. She also is author of New Jersey's Equal Pay for Equal Work for Women Law. Prior to her election to the assembly, Mrs. Dwyer achieved broad legislative experience as secretary and parliamentarian to the assembly majority leader and speaker. After her election she attended Rutgers Law School to further her knowledge of taxation and law and to increase her effectiveness as a lawmaker.

In Congress, she has continued her interest in education and has worked for a broad range of legislation designed to lift the living standards of people. She has also been active in the field of Federal-State-local relations where she has advocated the strengthening of local and State governments by encouraging them to meet more effectively the real needs of the people.

Mrs. Dwyer has participated in such community endeavors as the PTA and Cub Scouts, the Business and Professional Women's Club, and several charitable organizations. She was regional chairman of the Red Cross committee for recruitment of nurses during World War II, and donated her services as public relations adviser to the New Jersey Nurses' Association. Recently, she was named to serve on the board of directors of Gallaudet College, Washington, D.C., the first Congresswoman ever to serve on that Board.



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REPRESENTATIVE KATHRYN E. GRANAHAN (D)

Second Congressional District, Pennsylvania

Mrs. Kathryn E. Granahan, the first Congresswoman from Philadelphia, now serving her third term, is chairman of the Subcommittee of the House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service assigned responsibility for investigating all phases of postal operations. She also serves on the House Committee on Government Operations.

Widow of William T. Granahan, who was serving his fifth term as a Member of Congress at the time of his death in 1956, Mrs. Granahan was elected on the same day both to the unfinished term in the 84th Congress and to a full 2-year term in the 85th Congress. She was reelected in November 1958 to the 86th Congress.

A native of Easton, Pa., and a graduate of Easton public schools and Mount St. Joseph College, Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, Mrs. Granahan prior to her marriage was supervisor of public assistance in the Auditor General's Department, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and liaison officer between that Department and the Pennsylvania Department of Public Assistance.

An active participant with her late husband in Democratic affairs in the Second Congressional District, Mrs. Granahan also succeeded her husband as Democratic leader of the Philadelphia ward in which she resides, a post she continues to hold as a Member of Congress.

She is also chairman of the Board of Governors of the Women's Democratic Club of Philadelphia, vice president of the board of St. Francis Country Home for Convalescents, a member of the national board of the Woman's Medical College, and member of the American Legion Auxiliary and Catholic War Veterans Auxiliary. She is active in numerous charitable and civic organizations.

Congresswoman Granahan was given a Distinguished Service award by the American Legion in 1959; and was named Woman of the Year in 1958 by the Philadelphia Federation of Women's Clubs and by the Philadelphia Circle of the International Federation of Catholic Alumnae. In 1957, she received a national award from the American Veterans of World War II (Amvets) for outstanding service to the organization and to the welfare of the Nation.

Mrs. Granahan was selected by the Speaker of the House in 1957 as one of five House Members to pay an official visit to Germany as guests of the West German Parliament.

Through her work on both House Committees on which she serves, Mrs. Granahan keeps close watch on legislation and executive department policies affecting wages and working conditions of Government employees, a major concern in view of the fact that Philadelphia is a main center of Federal employment. Furthermore, she takes an active part in all issues affecting economic conditions in urban areas with particular emphasis on such matters as housing, urban renewal, slum clearance, aid to small business, social security and unemployment compensation, and measures to aid in the recovery of depressed economic areas. She is also vitally interested in the work of the National Institutes of Health including research on causes and cure of cancer, heart disease, arthritis, cystic fibrosis, and other killing or crippling diseases.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Postal Operations, she has programmed an extensive series of inquiries into proposals for expediting mail deliveries, and she has also undertaken an investigation of the adequacy of laws and policies for prohibiting the mailing of obscene material.



REPRESENTATIVE EDITH GREEN (D)

Third Congressional District, Oregon

Mrs. Edith Green has represented Oregon's Third Congressional District--the metropolitan Portland area--since 1954, and is serving her third consecutive term in the 86th Congress. Mrs. Green is a member of the Education and Labor Committee and the House Administration Committee.

In 1958 the Oregon Congresswoman took an active part in the committee hearings and debate leading to passage of the National Defense Education Act and the Welfare and Pension Funds Disclosure Act. She is the author of three bills which have been enacted into law--the Rural Library Services Act, the Alaska Mental Health Act, and a measure increasing disability benefits for longshoremen.

Demonstrating an active interest in various legislative fields, Mrs. Green has introduced bills to provide: Federal aid for school construction; juvenile delinquency control and prevention; nurse's training; equal pay for equal work; establishment of a Bureau of Older Persons; minimum-wage extension; unemployment compensation standards; Hawaiian and Alaskan statehood; social security improvements; liberalization of immigration statutes; and establishment of a national institute of geriatrics.

Mrs. Green attended Willamette University, received her B.S. degree from the University of Oregon, and did graduate work at Stanford University. In 1956 she was awarded an honorary LL.D. degree from the University of Alaska. She also received the annual Brotherhood Award from B'nai B'rith and in 1958 she received the National Woman of the Year award from the Amvets Auxiliary.

A teacher in the Oregon public schools for 14 years, Mrs. Green has also done commercial radio work and organization work for the Oregon Cancer Society, United Fund, and the Oregon Congress of Parents and Teachers. She served as director of public relations for the Oregon Education Association. In 1956 she was elected a delegate to the Democratic National Convention and was a member of the Platform Committee. She was asked, at this time, to make the seconding speech for the presidential nomination of Adlai Stevenson.

In the spring of 1958 Mrs. Green went to the Soviet Union as a member of the House Education and Labor Committee to study the Russian educational program. The same year, at the invitation of the American Friends Service Committee, she was one of four from the U.S. Congress to attend a Parliamentary Conference held in Clarens, Switzerland.

Representative Green is a member of the League of Women Voters, the American Association for the United Nations, Urban League, American Association of University Women, and the American Federation of Radio Artists; she is an active church member.



REPRESENTATIVE MARTHA W. GRIFFITHS (D)

Seventeenth Congressional District, Michigan

Mrs. Martha W. Griffiths was elected to the 84th Congress and reelected to the 85th and 86th Congresses. She is a member of the House Banking and Currency and Government Operations Committees.

Congresswoman Griffiths served in the Michigan State Legislature from 1948 to 1952. She was Judge and Recorder of the Recorder's Court of the City of Detroit in 1953, the first woman ever to hold this position. Her work in the Legislature and on the bench won her commendation by the Detroit Common Council and during this time she was picked as one of Michigan's ten best legislators by the Capitol Press Corps. She was named by the Detroit Free Press as 1 of 12 outstanding women of achievement in Detroit for 1953.

Mrs. Griffiths received her A.B. degree from the University of Missouri and later her LL.B. from the University of Michigan and was admitted to the practice of law in Michigan in 1941. In 1946, she opened her own law office and was admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court in 1955. She is married to Hicks G. Griffiths, attorney, Detroit, Mich.



Bills introduced in Congress by Mrs. Griffiths would provide programs to alleviate the unemployment situation; distribution of more surplus foods to needy families; and a new housing program for the elderly. She was the first Member of Congress to introduce legislation requiring slaughterhouses to use humane methods, which became law in the 85th Congress, and she supported legislation to aid rural libraries and legislation to enable college students to obtain Federal loans.

Congresswoman Griffiths was given a Certificate of Merit by the United Church Women of America, National Council of Churches (1955); awarded the Ruth Huston Whipple Award for outstanding public service by the Business and Professional Women's Clubs (1955); selected by Redbook Magazine as one of 10 Members of Congress who have done the most for young people (1956); and honored by the University of Missouri as one of their three outstanding alumni (1958).

Mrs. Griffiths is a member of the Detroit and Michigan Bar Associations, Business and Professional Women's Club, Women's, City Club, League of Women Voters, Detroit Historical Society, and the Eastern Star.

REPRESENTATIVE ELIZABETH KEE (D)

Fifth Congressional District, West Virginia

Mrs. Elizabeth Kee is the first and only woman to be elected to Congress from the State of West Virginia. She was elected to the 82d Congress in 1951 to complete the unexpired term of her late husband, John Kee, who was serving his 19th year as a Member of Congress and was chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs at the time of his death. Mrs. Kee was reelected to the 83d, 84th, 85th, and 86th Congresses. Active in Democratic politics since 1922, Mrs. Kee served as her husband's administrative assistant from the time he was elected to Congress in 1932. With this background of experience, she has a thorough knowledge of the problems of her district.

As a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, Mrs. Kee is chairman of the Hospitals Subcommittee. She is also a member of the Committee on Government Operations, serving on the Foreign Operations and Monetary Affairs Subcommittee.

Mrs. Kee is a member of the American Newspaper Women's Club, having written a weekly column which has appeared for years in West Virginia newspapers, and has produced radio and television programs over West Virginia networks. She is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Bluefield Chamber of Commerce, and numerous civic clubs and is active in church organizations. She was honored as West Virginia's Daughter of the Year by the West Virginia Society in 1955 and at a later date as West Virginia's Mother of the Year by West Virginians in Washington, D. C.

Mrs. Kee is interested in the work of the Red Cross. Over a period of years she has visited veterans' hospitals throughout the United States and made goodwill tours to Europe and South America. Bills introduced by her in 1959 deal with needs of disabled veterans, problems of the physically handicapped, area redevelopment, relief to economically depressed areas, and agricultural and coal research.



1875

REPRESENTATIVE EDNA F. KELLY (D)

Tenth Congressional District, New York

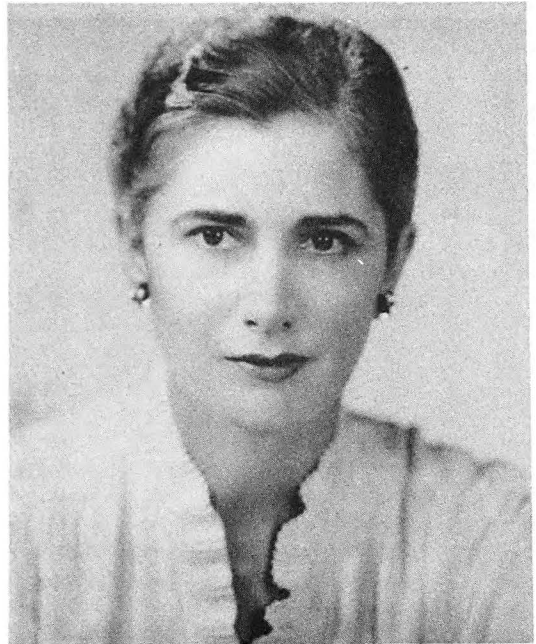
Mrs. Edna F. Kelly was elected in 1949 to the 2d session of the 81st Congress and has been reelected to the 82d, 83d, 84th, 85th, and 86th Congresses.

In 1942, Mrs. Kelly became associate director and in 1944, director of research for the Democratic delegation in the New York State Legislature. She remained in this post until her election to the Congress. Mrs. Kelly is a member of the Democratic Executive Committee of Kings County and is the Democratic National Committeewoman for New York State. Since 1951, Mrs. Kelly has served as a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

In 1955, she was chairman of a nine-member study mission to Europe to investigate matters relating to the Department of State and other departments and agencies engaged primarily in the implementation of foreign policy. In 1957, she was chairman of a five-member study mission on policy toward the satellite nations to obtain first-hand information on issues relating to the European area that come within the Mutual Security Program.

Mrs. Kelly sponsored provisions in the Mutual Security Act which provided for (1) U.S. participation in the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration and (2) conditions to be considered on offshore procurement of equipment and materials, specifically its adverse effects on the economy of the United States with special reference to labor surplus areas. She also sponsored an amendment to the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954 defining the words "friendly nations." She was one of the first sponsors of legislation allowing working widows and widowers to deduct specified expenses of child care from taxable income. This provision was incorporated in the 1954 tax law revision. Resolutions introduced by her and unanimously adopted by the Congress include one opposing the admission of Communist China to the United Nations and one expressing the sense of Congress on the problem of Hungary. In the 82d and subsequent Congresses, Mrs. Kelly introduced bills to establish the principle of equal pay for equal work. In the 84th, 85th, and 86th Congresses she introduced a Joint Resolution to create a joint committee to evaluate and coordinate all intelligence material of the various branches of the Government. Long concerned with agricultural problems, she has recommended direct payment to farmers, instead of the present system of agricultural subsidies.

Mrs. Kelly was graduated from Hunter College where she majored in history and economics. She is active in the Red Cross and cancer drives, church charities, the Greater New York Fund, and numerous child-welfare causes.



REPRESENTATIVE CATHERINE MAY (R)

Fourth Congressional District, Washington

Mrs. Catherine May, serving her first term in the 86th Congress, is the first woman to be elected from the State of Washington. She is a member of the House Committee on Agriculture.

Six years prior to her election to Congress, Mrs. May was elected to the Washington State Legislature where she served three terms. During that time she also served as vice chairman of the Governor's State-Wide Committee on Educational Television; legislative chairman of the Washington State Federation of Republican Women's Clubs; and was a member of the Washington Association for Retarded Children and the Governor's Safety Council.

Mrs. May holds the degree of B.A. in Education from the University of Washington. She was head of the English Department of Chehalis high school, Chehalis, Wash., for 4 years before entering the field of radio writing and advertising in New York and she has also been associated with broadcasting activities in the State of Washington.

Congresswoman May is interested in general farm programs, reclamation, the development of hydroelectric power and atomic energy. She brings to the Congress pre-conceived interest in Federal programs in education, handicapped children, and juvenile delinquency. She has introduced legislation in the current Congress on wheat stabilization and juvenile delinquency.

She is a member of the Young Republican Federation, Alpha Chi Omega, and Altrusa Club and was a recipient of the 1959 McCall's Magazine "Togetherness" Award.

Mrs. May is married to James O. May who is in the real estate business.



REPRESENTATIVE GRACIE PFOST (D)

First Congressional District, Idaho.

Mrs. Gracie Pfost is the first woman to be elected to Congress from Idaho. Elected to the 83d Congress and reelected to the 84th, 85th, and 86th Congresses, she now serves on the Public Works and Interior and Insular Affairs Committees. On the latter committee she is chairman of the Subcommittee on Public Lands.

Mrs. Pfost's principal concern since coming to Congress has been with humanitarian legislation. While a member of the Post Office and Civil Service Committee, she was chairman of the subcommittee that considered legislation seeking improvement in the annuities of retired civil service employees. During the 86th Congress she has urged establishment of a Youth Conservation program which will offer useful employment to young men unable to find work in industrial centers. She was the chief sponsor of a proposal to authorize the building of a high dam at Hells Canyon; has been in the forefront in protecting the lead-zinc mining and timber industries; and has urged construction of forest access roads. Congresswoman Pfost is also interested in an improved farm program and has introduced bills to protect and support prices for dairy-men and wheat producers.



Reared on a farm in the Boise Valley in Idaho, Mrs. Pfost is a business university graduate and worked as a chemist for a milk-products company until she assumed the position of deputy county clerk, auditor, and recorder of Canyon County, a post she held for 9 years. She was elected treasurer of Canyon County in 1940 and served in that capacity for 10 years.

A charter member of the Young Democrats of Idaho, she served two terms as its secretary and one as vice president. As a delegate to the Democratic National Conventions she was a member of the Platform and Resolutions Committee in 1944, 1948, 1952, and 1956.

Before coming to Congress Mrs. Pfost owned and operated her own real estate firm. She was secretary of the Nampa Real Estate Board and is a member of the Idaho and National Real Estate Boards, Chamber of Commerce of Nampa, Soroptimist Club, Business and Professional Women's Club, League of Women Voters, and Woman's Century Club.

REPRESENTATIVE EDITH NOURSE ROGERS (R)

Fifth Congressional District, Massachusetts

Mrs. Edith Nourse Rogers, the dean of women in Congress, is serving her 18th consecutive term. She was first elected in June 1925 to fill the vacancy caused by the death of her husband, John Jacob Rogers, and has been reelected for every term since. She has been a Member of Congress 10 years longer than has any other woman.

Mrs. Rogers is ranking minority member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee. Her outstanding contribution to wartime legislation was a bill creating the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, later the "WAC". When she was named chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee in the 80th Congress, she became the first woman to head a Congressional Committee.

Prior to her election to Congress, President Harding named Mrs. Rogers personal representative in a program for disabled veterans. She was similarly honored by Presidents Coolidge and Hoover.

Legislation attributed to Mrs. Rogers include improvement in the American Foreign Service; enactment of the bill for Korean veterans' benefits; establishment of a permanent Nurse Corps for veterans; and several other measures which provided aid and assistance to all American war veterans. Her work has been outstanding in the field of development of prosthetic appliances for veteran amputees. She has introduced legislation on equal pay for equal work, cancer research, highway safety, and other measures of national scope.

Mrs. Rogers' heritage is deeply rooted in New England. A graduate of Rogers Hall School in Lowell, Mass., she studied in Paris at Madame Julien's School and at the Sorbonne.

Mrs. Rogers who has received honorary degrees from a number of colleges in America has been honored by the Greek Government with the Cross of St. Mark, the Government of the Philippines, and the Governments of France and Ireland. In October 1950, Mrs. Rogers became the first woman in history to receive the Distinguished Service Medal awarded by the American Legion. She has been honored by almost every veterans' organization of the United States, among them the Blinded Veterans' Association, the Order of the Purple Heart, and American Legion posts and auxiliaries all over the United States.

Mrs. Rogers is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution; Women's National Republican Club of New York; Women's Overseas League; the American Legion Auxiliary; and many other national organizations.



REPRESENTATIVE KATHARINE ST. GEORGE (R)

Twenty-eighth Congressional District, New York

Mrs. Katharine St. George is serving her seventh term as a Member of Congress. She was elected in 1946 to the 80th Congress and has been reelected to each succeeding Congress. She is a member of the Armed Services Committee and the Post Office and Civil Service Committee.

Active in the political field for many years, Mrs. St. George has held responsible party posts. She served as Parliamentarian to the 1956 Republican Convention, the only woman ever to be appointed to this position. She is on the board of governors of the Women's National Republican Club, and a member of the advisory committee for the Republican Business Women's Club, both of New York City.

Mrs. St. George previously served on the Post Office and Civil Service Committee, from the 80th through the 84th Congresses. Her interest in all Federal employees was reflected by the introduction of several bills for the improvement of their working conditions, including a bill to base pay increases on the cost-of-living index; a bill providing for a training program in Government departments and agencies; and a Code of Ethics. The latter two were enacted into law. The 1952 report by the Subcommittee on Postal Operations, of which Mrs. St. George was then chairman, included recommendation for improvements which have since been effected resulting in an estimated saving of \$70 million to the Government and assignment of an Assistant Postmaster General for Personnel. Other legislative interests of Congresswoman St. George include the Equal Rights Amendment for which she is chief sponsor; revision of the income tax laws; and improvement in social security legislation.

As a member of the Committee on Armed Services in the 85th Congress, Mrs. St. George made an inspection of U.S. military bases in Spain. She was the first woman passenger in the new F-104B (Starfighter) plane in which she experienced an official flight at 35,000 feet altitude, breaking the sound barrier.

Mrs. St. George was the first woman to represent the United States at the Inter-parliamentary Union Conference. She has participated in the conferences since 1956, serving for 2 years as chairman of the Committee on Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Mrs. St. George is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Rockland County Business and Professional Women's Club, the National Institute of Social Sciences, and the American Society of International Law. She was appointed by the Speaker of the House to the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Commission in 1955 and the National Monuments Commission in 1958, where she served as cochairman of the citizens' committee for the Nation's civic auditorium.



REPRESENTATIVE EDNA SIMPSON (R)

Twentieth Congressional District, Illinois

Mrs. Edna Simpson, widow of former Congressman Sid Simpson of Carrollton, Ill., was elected to the 86th Congress. She is a member of the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee and its subcommittees - Mines and Mining, Public Lands, Territories; and the House Administration Committee and its subcommittees - Printing, and Library of Congress, and Botannical Gardens.

Congresswoman Simpson is interested primarily in legislation concerned with flood control and agriculture.

Mrs. Simpson is the first woman Board member ever appointed to the National Rivers and Harbors Congress.

During World War I, Mrs. Simpson was a volunteer worker for the American Red Cross and in her married life assisted her husband during his campaigns. He served in the House of Representatives 16 years.



REPRESENTATIVE LEONOR K. SULLIVAN (D)

Third Congressional District, Missouri

Mrs. Leonor K. Sullivan, now serving her fourth term, is the first woman to serve in Congress from the State of Missouri. A native of that State, Mrs. Sullivan is the widow of John Berchmans Sullivan, who was serving his fourth term as a Member of Congress at the time of his death.

Mrs. Sullivan, a former business training executive, married the Congressman in 1941 and served as his administrative assistant. In 1952, a year after his death, she was elected to the 83d Congress and reelected to the 84th, 85th, and 86th Congresses. She is a member of the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, serving as chairman of the Subcommittee on the Panama Canal, and of the Banking and Currency Committee and its Subcommittee on Housing.

The Congresswoman has played a leading role in the preparation of housing bills enacted by Congress since 1955. During 1958 she participated, in addition, in the drafting of the depressed areas bill, the community facilities bill, the Small Business Investment Act, and other measures to achieve business recovery. As chairman of the Subcommittee on the Panama Canal she directed the Subcommittee's 14-day investigation in Central America in 1957 into all phases of Canal Zone problems. Mrs. Sullivan has been instrumental in the passage of legislation to aid and protect families as consumers, including the Poultry Products Inspection Act and an amendment to the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act requiring pretesting for safety of all chemical additives used in foodstuffs. She has reintroduced in the 86th Congress her related bill requiring similar pretesting of ingredients used in cosmetics. Several years ago she initiated a probe of alleged coffee shortages which resulted in subsequent leveling off of high prices.

Congresswoman Sullivan is the author of a bill which won majority support in the House last year to establish a food stamp program for distribution of surplus food to more than 6 million needy Americans. She also introduced the Exceptional Children's Educational Assistance bill to encourage more teachers to take advanced training in the specialized skills of teaching gifted children or children with physical or emotional handicaps. A limited start on this objective was made last year in the enactment of a bill to encourage training of teachers of mentally retarded children. She is also interested in repealing the provisions of the Social Security Act amendments of 1956 reducing the benefits of women who retire between the ages of 62 and 65.

Mrs. Sullivan was educated in public and private schools in St. Louis and attended night classes at Washington University, specializing in vocational psychology. She taught business arithmetic and accounting and then served as director of a St. Louis business school prior to her marriage.

She is a member of the League of Women Voters and of the auxiliary of the first American Legion Post.



REPRESENTATIVE JESSICA McC. WEIS (R)

Thirty-eighth Congressional District, New York

Mrs. Jessica McC. Weis of Rochester, N.Y. is serving her first term and is a member of the House Government Operations and the District of Columbia Committees in the 86th Congress.

Active in the Republican Party since 1935, Mrs. Weis has held various local, State, and National posts. From 1940 to 1942 she was president of the National Federation of Republican Women's Clubs; National Republican Committeewoman from New York State since 1943; a member of the executive committee of the Republican National Committee since 1954; and a member of the Republican executive committee of New York State for a number of years.

As delegate-at-large to the last five Republican presidential nominating conventions, Mrs. Weis has served four times as vice chairman of the New York State delegation and was associate campaign manager in the 1948 national election, the first woman ever to hold that job.

In 1954, Mrs. Weis was appointed by the President as a member of the National Civil Defense Advisory Council and in that same year was appointed by the State Department to serve as Adviser to the American delegate to the Inter-American Commission of Women.

Born in Chicago, Mrs. Weis attended Miss Wright's School in Bryn Mawr, Pa., and did postgraduate work in New York. She married Charles W. Weis, Jr., in 1921 and has recently been widowed (1958).

A civil leader in Rochester for many years, Mrs. Weis has been actively identified with a number of religious, cultural, and social-welfare activities. She has served as president of the women's board of the Genesee Hospital; is a board member of the Rochester Convalescent Hospital for Children; the Rochester Museum; and the Rochester Christmas Bureau. She is a member of the Rochester Business and Professional Women's Club and is an active church member.



COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR WOMEN IN THE 86th CONGRESS

Committees of the SENATE

Standing Committee assignments of the woman Senator, Margaret Chase Smith (R) are:

Aeronautical and Space Sciences
Appropriations
Armed Services

Committees of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

There is at least one woman serving on 13 of the 20 standing committees of the House of Representatives as follows:

Agriculture

Catherine May (R)

Armed Services

Katharine St. George (R)

Banking and Currency

Leonor K. (Mrs. John B.) Sullivan (D)

Martha W. Griffiths (D)

Florence P. Dwyer (R)

District of Columbia

Jessica McC. Weis (R)

Education and Labor

Edith Green (D)

Foreign Affairs

Edna F. Kelly (D)

Frances P. Bolton (R)

Marguerite Stitt Church (R)

Government Operations

Martha W. Griffiths (D)

Elizabeth Kee (D)

Jessica McC. Weis (R)

Florence P. Dwyer (R)

Kathryn E. (Mrs. Wm. T.) Granahan (D)

House Administration

Edith Green (D)

Edna Simpson (R)

Interior and Insular Affairs

Gracie Pfof (D)

Edna Simpson (R)

Merchant Marine and Fisheries

Leonor K. (Mrs. John B.) Sullivan (D)

Post Office and Civil Service

Kathryn E. (Mrs. Wm. T.) Granahan (D)

Katharine St. George (R)

Public Works

Iris Faircloth Blich (D)

Gracie Pfof (D)

Veterans' Affairs

Elizabeth Kee (D)

Edith Nourse Rogers (R)

NUMBER OF WOMEN IN CONGRESS, 1917-1959

Congress	Total	Senate	House	Congress	Total	Senate	House
86th	17	1	16	75th	9	3	6
85th	16	1	15	74th	8	2	6
84th	17	1	16*	73d	8	1	7
83d	13	2	11	72d	8	1	7
82d	11	1	10	71st	9	-	9
81st	10	1	9	70th	5	-	5
80th	8	-	8	69th	3	-	3
79th	10	-	10	68th	1	-	1
78th	9	1	8	67th	4	1	3
77th	10	1	9	66th	-	-	-
76th	9	1	8	65th	1	-	1

*Includes the Delegate from Hawaii.

THE HISTORY OF THE

1780	1781	1782	1783	1784	1785	1786	1787	1788	1789	1790	1791	1792	1793	1794	1795	1796	1797	1798	1799