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### **The Equal Rights Act Discharge Petition: Part One**

Memories of approaching the Parliamentarian and suggesting a discharge petition to Representative Martha Griffiths of Michigan.

*Interview recorded September 4, 2008*

I went in there, and I told him, and then he knew the opposition to it, from the committee, and this gentleman said, "Well, I think the best thing to do is file a discharge petition." And so, I had the information on that, and I went back to Mrs. Griffiths and told her, and she says, "Oh, why couldn't we go through the Rules Committee?" See, she had, had forgotten about Rules at that point, and just briefly, I think, that Rules Committee was dominated by the same people that ran Judiciary Committee. Judge Smith of Virginia was the chairman at the time, I believe, and some of the others there. Senator Pepper was one. And I don't know that he really was supportive of it, but he kept saying, "Well, why don't you bring it before the committee?" So, when I went back, I said, "I don't think you have the votes, Mrs. Griffiths, to get it out of Rules Committee." And, of course, they were very—you'd have to go look at the membership at the time. And I just mentioned a few of them. Some were, would be supportive of it, and some would not. But they couldn't depend upon that route. So, I suggested to her that you file a discharge petition on it. And, and that's what she did. And I think it was in—it was H.J. Res. 264 in that Congress, and I believe, at some point, was it, three months after she filed it, she had the votes.