

The Honorable Paul E. Kanjorski
U.S. Representative of Pennsylvania (1985–2011)

Responsibilities of Pages

Representative Kanjorski describes the responsibilities of House Pages during the 1950s.
Interview recorded October 26, 2011

Well, it's a lot different than it is today because of communications, but then, there was a great need for delivery of materials. When a Member of Congress needed a bill, we would go to the document room, get the bill for him and then deliver it to his office. When he wanted to communicate with his office, you know, he didn't have this crazy thing called a cell phone, so he either used the telephones that were in the cloakrooms, and if he couldn't get those—and they were generally filled with people who would be speaking all over the country. It's a limited number of phones. So then if he wanted to send a note to his office of something, he'd write it and a Page would come take it and walk it over. And, well, we attended hearings, we attended committee hearings. We served at committees too, not only on the floor, but I was primarily assigned to the Democratic side, interestingly enough, because it was a Republican administration. That was the 83rd Congress, the last Republican Congress until the Gingrich Revolution came in, in '94.