Oral history interview with Riki P. Sheehan, 1988 June 2-11

Overview of the Collection

Interviewee: Sheehan, Riki P. (Fredrica Poster), 1951-
Title: Oral history interview with Riki P. Sheehan
Dates: 1988 June 2-11 (inclusive)
1988-06-02 1988-06-11
Quantity: .1 cubic feet, (4 audiocassettes (3 hr., 21 min., 57 sec.))
Collection Number: SR 1343
Summary: Oral history interview with Riki P. Sheehan conducted by Michael O'Rourke from June 2-11, 1988, as part of the Senator Mark O. Hatfield Oral History Project. Sheehan was a caseworker and legislative assistant on Hatfield's staff.
Repository: Oregon Historical Society, Davies Family Research Library
Davies Family Research Library
Oregon Historical Society
1200 SW Park Avenue
Portland, OR
97205
Telephone: 503-306-5240
Fax: 503-219-2040
libreference@ohs.org
Access Restrictions: Collection is open for research.
Languages: English
Sponsor: This project is supported in whole or part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library Services and Technology Act, administered by the State Library of Oregon.

Biographical Note

Fredrica "Riki" Poster Sheehan was born in New York in 1951. She earned a bachelor of science degree from Cornell University in 1973. She then moved to Washington, D.C., in order to get a job in government. She began working on U.S. Senator Mark Hatfield's staff as a caseworker in 1974. In 1977, she became one of Hatfield's legislative assistants. In 1980, when Hatfield became chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, she was appointed to its staff.

Other Descriptive Information

Forms part of the Senator Mark O. Hatfield Oral History Project.

Other Descriptive Information

Oral history interview with Riki P. Sheehan, 1988 June 2-11
http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv157104
1
Content Description

This oral history interview with Riki P. Sheehan was conducted by Michael O'Rourke from June 2-11, 1988. In this interview, Sheehan discusses coming to Washington, D.C., after graduating from Cornell University in 1973. She describes the atmosphere of the city during the Watergate scandal and beginning to work with U.S. Senator Mark Hatfield, particularly her job interview. She discusses the issues on which she disagreed with Hatfield, including on U.S.-Israeli relations and abortion. She describes her duties as a legislative assistant and working with other members of Hatfield's staff. She discusses Hatfield's personality and spirituality, as well as how Hatfield's position on many issues differed from that of other Republicans. She talks about cases she worked on when she first joined Hatfield's staff and describes how Hatfield would take a personal interest in some of them. Sheehan discusses Hatfield's relationship with other senators, including John Stennis, as well as Hatfield's personal and family life. She speaks at length about Hatfield's chairmanship of the Senate Appropriations Committee and her work on that committee's staff. She also describes Hatfield's relationship with the administrations of presidents Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan. Sheehan discusses Hatfield's interest in and support for Oregon Health Sciences University (now Oregon Health & Science University), as well as funding for AIDS research. She closes the interview by discussing a real estate scandal that affected Hatfield in 1984, Hatfield's family life, and his legacy.

Use of the Collection

Alternative Forms Available

Audio available online in OHS Digital Collections.

Preferred Citation


Restrictions on Use

Joint copyright for this interview is held by the Oregon Historical Society and Willamette University. Use is allowed according to the following license: Creative Commons - BY-NC-SA: http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/

Administrative Information

Detailed Description of the Collection
### Names and Subjects

**Subject Terms:**  
AIDS (Disease)--Government policy--United States  
Legislation--United States  

**Personal Names:**  
Hatfield, Mark O., 1922-2011  
Sheehan, Riki P. (Fredrica Poster), 1951-  

**Corporate Names:**  
Oregon Health Sciences University  
United States. Congress. Senate  

**Geographical Names:**  
United States--Politics and government--20th century  

**Form or Genre Terms:**  
interviews  

**Other Creators:**  
**Personal Names:**  
O'Rourke, Michael (Filmmaker)  
(interviewer)  

Sarah Stroman  
2020

---

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License:  
[http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)

Creative Commons Licenses in Archives West:  
[http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/cc-attr.shtml](http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/cc-attr.shtml)