General Information

Source: NBC Nightly News
Creator: Tom Brokaw/Odetta Rogers
Event Date: 11/10/1992
Air/Publish Date: 11/10/1992

Description

Exemplifying newfound Congressional diversity in 1992, the traditional restroom for male senators will finally be converted to accommodate females as well.

Keywords


Citation

MLA
Transcript

A Diverse Congress in 1992

Unidentified Man: So help you God.

Mrs. DIANNE FEINSTEIN (Democrat, Senator-elect): I will.

ROGERS: This is one of the new faces changing the look, California Senator Dianne Feinstein, the first of the Senate newcomers to take the oath of office, and one of six women Senators, three times as many as before.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN: I think it can be a kind of signal year in terms of achieving some things that can give people a sense of confidence that their government is serving them once again.

Mrs. CAROL MOSELY BRAUN (Democrat, Senator-elect): I'd like to be a voice for working people, a voice for everyday citizens who have to live normal lives, to bring that perspective and that outlook to this institution.

ROGERS: This afternoon some of the new women met for what they called a 'power workshop,' in the hopes of having their agenda ready for action when Congress resumes in January. And they could have the support from their sisters in the US House of Representatives, where there are 24 newly-elected women.

Indeed, the new Congress has more women and minorities than ever before, with 54 women in the House and Senate, 40 African Americans, 19 Hispanics, nine Asians and Pacific Islanders, and one American Indian, Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell, who will wear his ethnic bolo instead of the traditional necktie.

Mr. BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL: I looked in the rule book. It--it just said that there's a dress code of `coat and tie,' but it didn't describe what is the coat or a tie.

ROGERS: And there will be other changes around here. The traditional restroom for the male senators only will be converted to accommodate both males and females. The women didn't have one of their own before, and had to use a public restroom on another floor. The new senators were hoping to get their committee assignments today, but they'll have to wait for a run-off election in Georgia and an election to
fill a vacancy in North Dakota.