

Myles Garrigan

The Changing Republican Cloakroom

Discussion of the changing role of the House Cloakrooms.

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Every Page—at least I did. I ran up a tab in there. I mean, it was—they had sandwiches. They had drinks—you know, soft drinks, and so forth. So I had my lunch in there every day. And they always had Boston cream pie, I remember. I think that Boston—the Massachusetts delegation said that was a must. They had to—anyway, no, I spent some—a lot of time in the cloakroom. And as a matter of fact, just a little while ago, today, we went on a tour of the House. And the cloakroom is completely different than what it was then. Now the cloakroom—saying there are—well, there's a TV in there. There's computers all over the place. And the battery of phones is still there, but they keep track of it somehow. A lot of new technology. There's, like, some chairs. Years ago, there was always a gang of couches, where a Congressman could lay down and take a nap. {laughter} And there are no more couches. They mean business now, you know? No sleeping on the job—literally! So the cloakroom has changed quite a bit.