

March Photo Challenge

Contributed Mary Hammer, Digital Projects Archivist, with additional information from Ben Helle, Dave Ammons and Steve Excell

March was Women's History Month, so we thought it only fitting to have the challenge involve an important woman in Washington history. So who is this woman meeting the press, and why was that event so significant?



On February 13, 1981, Democratic Senator Pete von Reichbauer changed his party affiliation to Republican, giving Republicans the majority in the Senate and making Jeannette Hayner the first woman Majority Leader in the history of the Washington Senate.



"There have been many outstanding women in the Washington State Legislature, but only one so far has reached the top rung of power. Her achievements are so remarkable (and little known) that she deserves more than just a reference. Her story bridges the eras of Women getting the right to vote, getting elected, taking power, and making a difference." – Edward D. Seeberger, author of *Sine Die: A Guide to the Washington State Legislative Process*.

That was the challenge, and what followed was a fun conversation between colleagues and archivists about who was there that day. Here are some excerpts from those conversations along with a few other views of the press conference. Enjoy!

From Steve Excell, State Archivist:

Seated at the table: Senators Jeanette Hayner and John D. "Jack" Jones. Standing and smoking his pipe: Senator E.G. "Pat" Patterson. The rest of those standing are the Olympia Press Corps. Dave (Ammons) may be able to identify most of them.

Reply from Dave Ammons, Communications Director for the Office of the Secretary of State:

Next to the video camera, facing the camera is Steve Williams of Channel 13; with beard, holding pad is Steve Ponder of the *Seattle P-I*, and the man behind Senator Hayner was a radio person... *(some discussion followed as to whether or not this man was Kenton or Dave Brine with Evergreen Radio Service. In the end, it seems that he is Dave Brine.)*



This photo received identification from Dave Ammons:

From left, Lyle Burt of *The Seattle Times*; Jerry Pugnetti, *TNT*; Bill Mertena, *AP*. And the event would not be fully documented without the man in question who changed teams and made the day possible:



AR-senate-1981-02-13_20.jpg

Pete von Reichbauer