

## Interview with Kathleen Sullivan

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Interviewer: Mark DePue

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DePue: I want to give you an opportunity to finish off with one more anecdote about the end of the ERA fight in Illinois, which of course was in 1982 right here in Springfield.

Sullivan: Well, there were many things at that point, but one that really has an extraordinarily pertinent, but humorous, aspect was the big demonstration that some of the feminists had in the Capitol. It was even in *LIFE Magazine* at the time. They literally chained themselves in front of the doors of the Governor and other offices in the state of Illinois. They had acquired blood from the local slaughterhouse and poured it all over the floor of the Illinois Capitol, an area where they were chained. It was really pretty gruesome and extraordinary as a type of demonstration that they chose.

But anyway, Governor Thompson at the time tried to get out of his office and they wouldn't move; they were blocking his exit. He said, "Excuse me, ladies," and two or three of them screamed, "We're not ladies!" And his response was, "You said it, not me." It was a very unusual form of admitting what they wanted to be heard. They didn't want to be ladies.