Reading Number 26
From *The Difference Women Make*
by Michele Wears

p. 168, ¶ 1– “On October 20, 1999, a group of largely Democratic women took to the floor of the House of Representatives to support an amendment by Congresswoman Patsy Mink (D-HI) that would restore funding for gender equity programs to a Republican bill reauthorizing parts of the 1965 Elementary and Secondary Schools Education Act. As evidence of the continuing need for gender equity programs, Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D-OH) cited women’s underrepresentation in Congress.”

p. 169, ¶ 2– “Congresswoman Tubbs Jones’s comments imply that electing more women to Congress will not just achieve equality but also influence the range of issues considered on the national agenda and the formulation of policy solutions.”

Ibid., ¶ 4– “[M]any Democratic and moderate Republican women claim that they do feel a special responsibility to represent women in their committee work, and they do lobby male committee leaders to take into account a policy’s potential impact on women.”

Ibid., ¶ 5– “Additionally, in interviews, both Democratic and Republican men and women expressed the belief that women and minorities bring a different perspective to the policy process, and it is important to have these groups at the decision-making table.”

p 170, ¶ 2– “While both Democratic and Republican women agree that it is important to have women at the table because females bring a different perspective to policy making, Democratic women are more willing to challenge their party leadership explicitly and demand that women be considered for positions because of their gender.”

p. 171, ¶ 2– “In response to these trends, Democrats are designing their policy proposals and public appeals with an eye toward maintaining women’s support, while Republicans actively work to expand their appeal among women.”

Ibid., ¶ 3– “The debate over gun control during the 106th Congress highlight the Democratic strategy.”

p. 172, ¶ 2– “As Democrats turn to congresswomen to expand their support among women voters, Republicans, particularly in the 104th Congress, deploy women in a more defensive manner.”