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Politics in Public and Private Sectors

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Speier and best-selling author Deborah Collins Stephens talk about politics within public and private sectors. Speier discusses how the freedom to explore issues is absent in the private sector. Stephens talks about how power plays an important role in the politics of public sectors. She stresses that it is necessary for people to have a lot of will power in order for them to rise above in the public sector.



Transcript

Well, in the private sector, at least in my experience, I didn't have the freedom to explore issues and to do things that I had as I kind of veered solo CEO, so to speak, when you're a legislator and can basically do whatever you want. Now, you've got to develop network. So, you develop it by developing support groups that can persuade your colleagues to support your legislation and get it passed into law. I think having worked with Jackie in the public sector and working with leaders in the private sector, the difference that I see is the style of leadership. And we've spent two decades now teaching leaders in corporate America to collaborate and to build teams. And that certainly is not the case in politics. It's power at its best and worst. And that's why I have such admiration for Jackie because women in that environment, it's one of the toughest environments I've ever seen for a woman leader. There isn't a lot of trust among the teammates. You can have someone that you think is on your side with a big project and in public you find out that's not the case.

And it's by sheer will power that the great politicians that we know like the Kennedys' that they just keep at it and it's that cause. But in my perspective, it's a tough, tough world, much more so than corporate America just because of the environment.