

The Honorable William Lacy Clay Sr.
U.S. Representative of Missouri (1969–2001)

The Long Struggle for Representation: Oral Histories of African Americans in Congress

Congressional Black Caucus Outreach

Representative Clay Sr. describes how the Congressional Black Caucus sought to create a collective voice and develop plans to work closely with community leaders.

Interview recorded September 10, 2019

You had several who wanted to lead like Adam Clayton Powell, be *the* spokesman, and we said, “No, no. We are going to speak as a group.” And that’s how all of these series of hearings that we had around the country. Like, I was chairman of the communications committee, and I aligned with the chairman of the Howard University School of Communication, and we had hearings around the country. Gus Hawkins got with the educators, and they had hearings all over the country. Metcalfe had a hearing with the medical community down at Meharry. Dellums and Chisholm took on the military, and they, they had hearings even in, in foreign countries.