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

Role of the Congressional Black Caucus
Representative Clay Sr. describes the potential power of the Congressional Black Caucus. 

Interview recorded September 10, 2019

Well, it, it gave, it gave, it gave people who normally didn’t have a vehicle for, for a voice, it gave them, not just Black Members, but other Members—see, back in the day, if you weren’t chairman of a committee or a subcommittee, nobody paid any attention to you. And so that’s what happened: when we started demanding that we’re going to get our positions, other caucuses started doing the same thing.