

The Honorable Clarence J. “Bud” Brown Jr.
U.S. Representative of Ohio (1965–1983)

Chowder and Marching Club

Representative Brown explains the structure of the Chowder and Marching Club.
Interview recorded November 22, 2013

When you arrived at the meeting, and they would go around the table and ask people what they knew of their committees, what they knew from their districts, and what they knew from their general reaction to some of the proposals that they would be voting on. And it was a way that the Republicans who—I don’t know whether this is a good phrasing or not—but who, who had personal feelings of their leadership capacity would sit around and talk about it. And you would have your views shaped by the responses you were getting in your district when you were at home making speeches or discussing things with the folks that you talked to from your district on other occasions. And how, what you heard from your committee on the specific subject that they wanted to tell their C&M members about, and on, on their general philosophic positions and, and then whether it differed—I say this—what they thought the majority of the committee was going to do that differed from the views that they held. And then each one of us listening to that could make our judgments of whether we supported what the C&M member thought or what, what they suggested somebody else was thinking in the bipartisan committees on which they sat. And it, it was a great learning experience.