In 1929, as a Florida Representative, Claude Pepper voted against a Florida State Legislature resolution condemning First Lady Lou Henry Hoover’s White House invitation for tea to Mrs. DePriest, the wife of the first Black congressman since Reconstruction. This stand contributed to his defeat in the legislature in 1930. When Claude Pepper was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1936, he continued to play an active role in civil rights. In June of 1945, after issuing public statements and rallying support, the US House passed an anti-poll-tax bill that Pepper had advocated for years. He unsuccessfully attempted to establish a Fair Employment Practices Committee, extending equal rights in hiring to blacks and women. In 1945, he attempted to get through the Senate a bill giving equal rights to women, but it was defeated in a conservative-led filibuster. Pepper realized the significance of extending civil rights to all Americans, and consistently supported such legislation through his years in the House. This guide will help researchers locate pertinent materials in the Claude Pepper and Robert Manning Strozier Libraries that document his dedication to the expansion of civil rights in this century.

**BACKGROUND SOURCES**


**CORRESPONDENCE IN CLAUDE PEPPER LIBRARY**


**SPEECHES IN CLAUDE PEPPER LIBRARY - US SENATE YEARS**


Claude Pepper's Record on Civil Rights. 1950. Series 432A, Box 1, Folder 28.

Anti-lynching bill. 1937. Series 201, Box 1, Folders 6, 7.

SPEECHES IN CLAUDE PEPPER LIBRARY - US HOUSE YEARS

Series 303A, Box 1, Folder 9.

DIARIES IN CLAUDE PEPPER LIBRARY

Pepper, Claude. Diaries. 1937-1950; 1963-1982. Series 439, Boxes 1-2; 4-6A.

PEPPER LEGISLATION FILES

In addition, there are copies of bills and resolutions initiated or sponsored by Claude Pepper, reports, lists of Pepper bills, rough drafts of bills, notes, voting records, and transcriptions of hearings. Subjects include the poll tax, equal rights amendment, the Economic Opportunity Act, and the Housing and Urban Development Act. See Series 207A, 309A, 309B.

AUDIO RECORDINGS IN CLAUDE PEPPER LIBRARY

American Federation of Labor (AFL) Convention, Davenport, Iowa. Claude Pepper speech on democracy, equal pay for equal work for women. August 9, 1946. (Audiocassette AV A 41)

Claude Pepper statements on behalf of local Florida Democrats running for office. Among other topics, Pepper discusses housing programs, civil rights, discrimination against Jews and Catholics. October 15, 1948. (Audiocassette AV 327)


VIDEO RECORDINGS IN CLAUDE PEPPER LIBRARY

Claude Pepper interview. Among other topics, he discusses discrimination and voting. February 1979. (Videocassette AV B 103)

The Story of FEA (Florida Education Association) United Centennial: A Century of Progress." LeRoy Collins is a speaker. Topics include racial inequality, lynchings, and the Civil Rights Act of 1964. 1986. (Videocassette AV B 160)

Compiled by Burt Altman
Claude Pepper Library
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