



CLAUDE PEPPER AND CRIME PREVENTION: A GUIDE TO SELECTED MATERIALS IN THE CLAUDE PEPPER COLLECTION

Florida State University Libraries

To gain a clearer understanding of criminal activities and to determine what new federal legislation might be needed to curb them, Claude Pepper in 1969 successfully proposed the establishment of a House Select Committee on Crime and was appointed its chair. The Committee lasted until 1975, conducting hearings in all parts of the country and gathering information on organized crime, street crime, white-collar crime, drug smuggling, crimes against the elderly, drug use, and much more. One of the Committee's most famous activities was its interview with Frank Sinatra concerning his alleged connections to organized crime. In addition, the Committee was the first to recommend that the use of marijuana be treated as a misdemeanor rather than a felony. It also demonstrated that the problem of teenage drug abuse was not confined to the large urban centers but existed in small and medium-sized communities across the nation. Pepper was instrumental in investigating the Securities and Exchange Commission for security fraud, in appropriating funds for the Federal Aviation Agency to install metal detectors in airports, and in investigating prison riots after the Attica "uprising" in 1971. This guide will help researchers locate selected resources in the Claude Pepper and Robert Manning Strozier Libraries documenting Claude Pepper's efforts in the battle against crime.

BACKGROUND SOURCES

Pepper, Claude and Hays Gorey. *Pepper: Eyewitness to a Century*. New York: Harcourt, Brace Jovanovich, 1987. (Strozier E 748 .P455 A3 1987)

Pepper, Claude. *Ask Claude Pepper*. New York: Doubleday & Company, 1984. (Strozier Special Collections Florida HQ 1064 .U5 P455 1984)

SPEECHES IN CLAUDE PEPPER LIBRARY

Joint Committee to Investigate Crime. 1968. Series 303A, Box 1, Folder 10.

Select Committee Investigating Crime. 1969. Series 303A, Box 9, Folder 5.

Support HR 45 (Juvenile Crime), c.1970 Series 303A, Box 9, Folder 8.

Testimony on HR 8569 (Drugs, Heroin). 1972. Series 303 A, Box 9, Folder 9.

White Collar Crime Seminar, New York. 1974. Series 303B, Box 6, Folder 22.

Crime in Business. 1974. Series 303B, Box 10, Folder 7.

Drugs in Our Schools. 1973. Series 303B, Box 16, Folder 2.

Crime is a National Problem. 1969. Series 303B, Box 18, Folder 2.

Attica Prison. 1971. Series 303B, Box 20, Folder 2.

Tax Relief for Victims of Crime. 1972. Series 303B, Box 20, Folder 4.

AUDIO RECORDINGS IN CLAUDE PEPPER LIBRARY

- Claude Pepper's recommendations against the distribution of amphetamines and barbiturates made by the Crime Committee (HR 5383). Pepper discusses organized crime, schools, prisons, street crime. September 13, 1977. (Audiocassette AV A 521)
- Claude Pepper making a statement about Frank Sinatra's wishes, as expressed through his attorney, to not have pictures taken as Mr. Sinatra arrives in the hearing room or as he testifies. July 18, [1972.] Labeled "Pepper on Sinatra invoking press restraint Crime Committee." (Audiocassette AV A 462)
- Claude Pepper remarks at Testimonial Dinner, Miami Beach, Florida. Pepper discusses Crime Committee, street crimes, youth crime, drugs, crime education, heroin, marijuana, rehabilitation centers, organized crime, gambling, corrupt public officials, law enforcement, correctional institutions. April 19, 1970. (Audiocassette AV A 705)
- Claude Pepper press conference on two final Crime Committee reports. "Drugs in Our Schools" & "Street Crime: Reduction Through Positive Criminal Justice Responses." June 29, 1973. (Audiocassette AV A 889)
- Claude Pepper statement on Crime Committee's Racing Report. Pepper discusses regulating horse racing, drugging horses, bribery. June 25, 1973. (Audiocassette AV A 891)
- Crime Committee hearing. Topics include prison reform, Attica, correctional institutions, and law enforcement. November 30, 1971. (Audiocassette AV A 1567)

VIDEO RECORDINGS IN CLAUDE PEPPER LIBRARY

- Claude Pepper: "Stop Crime in America." Claude Pepper statement for television on House passage of his crime bill. House of Representatives Videotape. July 1968. (Videocassette AV B 1)
- Claude Pepper speaking for WTVD, Ch. 4, [probably WTVJ Miami, Florida] on hearings held by the Subcommittee on Information, Justice, and Agriculture Committee on Drug Problems in South Florida. March 15, 1985. (Videocassette AV B 102)

CRIME COMMITTEE FILES

These files include bills, correspondence, memoranda, hearings, news clippings, press releases, reports, and statements concerning Claude Pepper's activities on the House Select Committee on Crime from 1969-1975, and the Committee's activities through 1988. Topics include the Attica Prison riot, drug hearings, drugs in schools, Frank Sinatra, industrial crime, organized crime, prisons, sports probes, street crime, and white collar crime. Series 302C.

In addition to the hearings found in the Pepper Papers, you may also wish to consult the *Congressional Information Service (CIS) Annual*, 1970-1995, (Doc Ref Z 1223 .Z7 C6), in the Documents/Maps/ Micromaterials Department of the Florida State University Libraries.