



## **CLAUDE PEPPER AND THE ELDERLY: A GUIDE TO SELECTED MATERIALS IN THE CLAUDE PEPPER COLLECTION**

Florida State University Libraries

While serving as chairman of the U.S. House Subcommittee on Health and Long-Term Care and of the House Select Committee on Aging during the 1970s, Claude Pepper became known as the "nation's spokesman for the elderly." However, his service to older Americans was a lifelong commitment that began as a freshman legislator in the Florida House of Representatives in the late 1920s. While serving in the Florida House, he introduced a bill in 1929 providing free fishing licenses to seniors; the bill became law. In the U.S. Senate in 1937, Pepper introduced the Townsend Plan (S. 3) that would pay \$200 a month to every citizen sixty-five or older. Because Social Security, established in 1935, proved to be a more effective way to provide income to older people, he switched from advocating the Townsend Plan to supporting and defending Social Security. In 1981, he was appointed by Speaker Tip O'Neill to the bipartisan National Commission on Social Security. A major accomplishment of this commission was to insure the solvency of the Social Security system for the next 75 years.

Claude Pepper was active and influential in the 1965 passage of Medicare and Medicaid to assist the elderly and the destitute. During his tenure as Chairman of the House Select Committee on Aging, his activities included investigations of fraud against the elderly, elder abuse in nursing homes and in the home, age discrimination, and Medicare/Medicaid fraud. In 1977, as a U.S. Congressman, he proposed a bill (H.R. 5383) to abolish mandatory retirement at any age for federal government workers and to raise from 65 to 70 the age at which non-federal employees could be forced to retire. This bill became law (P.L. 95-256) in 1978. In 1986, he sponsored a bill (H.R. 4154) to abolish age discrimination in employment. It passed and was signed into law (P.L. 99-592) as the "Age Discrimination in Employment Act Amendments of 1978."

In 1987, he sponsored legislation (H.R. 65) to expand Medicare to protect chronically ill and disabled persons of all ages against the cost of catastrophic illness. It was enacted into law in 1988, (P.L. 100-360) as the "Medicare Part C: Catastrophic Health Care Act of 1988." Later in 1987, Pepper introduced a bill (H.R. 2762) to "provide long-term home care benefits under Medicare for chronically ill individuals and children, to provide quality assurance for home care services, and for other purposes." The U.S. House blocked Pepper's bill from coming to a vote in June 1988, however, because other congressional colleagues supporting another catastrophic health care bill (H.R. 2470) were concerned that Pepper's bill was too broad and costly. These colleagues felt that if Pepper's bill was joined to theirs, it would jeopardize their legislation. The bill sponsored by his colleagues became law (P.L. 100-360) on July 1, 1988, as the "Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act of 1988." This act created a commission, the U.S. Bipartisan Commission on Comprehensive Health Care (The Pepper Commission), which continued to address the issues of long-term care and home care for all Americans. Claude Pepper was appointed its first chair, and he served until his death in May 1989.

These accomplishments are just a small part of Pepper's legacy of service to the elderly. This guide will help you locate selected materials in the Claude Pepper and Robert Manning Strozier Libraries that document his activities on behalf of America's senior citizens.

## **BACKGROUND SOURCES**

- Cardona, Ivan. *Aging in America: a Propositional Analysis of Selected Congressional Speeches of Representative Claude Pepper*. Thesis (Ph.D.), Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, 1986. **(Strozier Special Collections Florida HQ 1061 .C344 1986a)**
- Myhre, Martin J. "**Senator Claude Pepper and His Health Care Legacy.**" Term Paper. Internship Practicum in Aging Studies. Florida State University, Pepper Institute on Aging and Public Policy. December 2000. **(Claude Pepper Library)**
- Pepper, Claude and Hays Gorey. *Pepper: Eyewitness to a Century*. New York: Harcourt, Brace Jovanovich, 1987. **(Strozier Special Collections Florida E 748 .P55 A3 1987)**
- Pepper, Claude. *Ask Claude Pepper*. New York: Doubleday & Company, 1984. **(Strozier Special Collections Florida HQ 1064 .US P455 1984)**

## **CORRESPONDENCE IN CLAUDE PEPPER LIBRARY**

- Aging Hearing. 1983. Series 301, Box 285, Folder 10.
- Campaign 1984 - Senior Delegates. Series 304A, Box 44, Folder 2.
- Health Services to Older Americans. 1967. Series 301, Box 97, Folder 5.
- Old Age Assistance. 1936-1937. Series 201, Box 115, Folder 15.
- Pensioners - Old Age Pensions. 1946. Series 201, Box 116A, Folder 13.
- Senior Centers. 1973-1974. Series 301, Box 662, Folder 5.
- Senior Citizens. 1962-1964. Series 301, Box 213, Folder 1.
- Senior Citizens - Foster Grandparents. 1976. Series 301, Box 504, Folder 6.
- White House Conference on Aging. 1980-1984. Series 301, Box 747, Folders 7-9.

## **SPEECHES IN CLAUDE PEPPER LIBRARY**

- Congress of Senior Citizens, ca. 1983. Series 303B, Box 7, Folder 7.
- Medicare and the Elderly. 1977. Series 303A, Box 9, Folders 1-3.
- Meeting the Needs of the Aged. 1968. Series 303B, Box 5, Folder 12.

### **SPEECHES IN CLAUDE PEPPER LIBRARY - CONT'D**

National Association of Hispanic Elderly. 1979. Series 303B, Box 6, Folder 1.  
National Council of Senior Citizens. 1981. Box 8, Folder 12. Nutrition  
Program for the Elderly. 1971. Series 303A, Box 1, Folder 16. Plight of the  
Elderly in America. 1977. Series 303B, Box 10, Folder 4. Science and  
Growing Old. 1975. Series 303A, Box 9, Folder 21. World Assembly on  
Aging. 1981. Series 303B, Box 8, Folder 3.

### **PHOTOGRAPHS IN CLAUDE PEPPER LIBRARY**

Claude Pepper speaking at the meeting of the senior citizens at Mayflower Hotel,  
Washington, D.C. "Joining the active people over 60" sign is on front of podium, ca.  
1977. Photo A (133)

Claude Pepper & Representative John Dingell, Jr., sharing the moment of victory for  
Medicare. They are holding the Medicare bill HR 6675. 1965. Photo B (987)

Claude Pepper cutting inaugural ribbon at the inauguration of the candle factory for the  
Useful Elderly Organization, headed by Dr. Justo Regaldo. ca. 1978. Photo B (1107)

Claude Pepper with Walter Mondale (signed by Mondale) at podium with sign, "National  
Council of Senior Citizens - Senior Power." 1984. Photo B (1135)

Claude Pepper meets witness David Stockman at Aging Committee Hearing "Impact of  
Reagan Budget on the Elderly" 1981. Photo B (1330)

Claude Pepper visiting patients at a nursing home. Shaking hands with an elderly woman in  
wheel chair (Color Slides). 1987. Photo B (1337)

Claude Pepper meeting with elderly Americans Over 100 group. 1979. Photo B (1337)

Claude Pepper and others at briefing on "Problems of the Minority Elderly," at the Caleb  
Community Center, Miami, FL. March 29, 1978. Photo B (1014)

Claude Pepper at Hearing for Quack Cures and Frauds against the Elderly. During this hear-  
ing he demonstrates the "Kongo Kit," by holding up his hands, upon which he has a  
pair of large gloves. Pepper demonstrates that instead of relieving the pain of arthri-  
tis, it peels the skin off unsuspecting users, ca. 1984. Photo B (1964)

## AUDIO RECORDINGS IN THE CLAUDE PEPPER LIBRARY

- Claude Pepper speech at Democratic function in Manchester, New Hampshire. Pepper discusses old age assistance, conservatism, slum clearance, Wage and Hour Law, Good Neighbor Policy, and the Civilian Conservation Corps. October 1, 1942. Audiocassette AV A (195)
- Fourth of July speech by Claude Pepper in Denver concerning senior citizens. Pepper mentions the Declaration of Independence and the Emancipation Proclamation. September 1964. Audiocassette AV A (628)
- Speech at Florida State Council for Senior Citizens. Cocoa, Florida. Pepper discusses pensions, Medicare, Social Security, disability benefits, prescription drugs, Medicaid, employment, discrimination against women and elderly, National Senior Citizens Service Corps, poverty, retired citizens. May 13, 1967. Audiocassette AV A (673)
- Speech at groundbreaking for Villa Maria, a nursing home for the elderly, North Miami, FL. Pepper discusses Social Security, nursing homes, hospitals, housing legislation, medical indigents, daycare facilities, elderly, independence. June 17, 1967. Audiocassette AV A (678)
- Interview with Claude Pepper regarding Mental Health Conference. He discusses discrimination against mentally ill and aged, state hospitals, elderly, nursing homes, boarding homes, federal regulations, fire code violations in boarding home fire. April 23, 1979. Audiocassette AV A (740).
- Claude Pepper on program, "Crime in Elderly Housing." He discusses security for elderly and victimization of senior citizens. Topics include crime, violence prevention, poor, slums, public housing. May 10, 1979. Audiocassette AV A (747)
- Remarks by Claude Pepper at 1981 White House Conference on Aging. He discusses the Aging Committee, right to life and work for elderly, mandatory retirement, ageism, Social Security. 1981. Audiocassette AV A (778)
- Claude Pepper discusses the passage of a congressional bill providing 5% across the board increase in Social Security benefits effective Jan. 1, 1971. The bill also provides benefits to people not previously covered by Social Security, 72 years of age or older. He hopes that a proposal that people only receive a cost of living increase be rejected. 1970. Audiocassette AV A (1488)
- WDAE Recording. Tampa, Florida. Part 1 and 2. Claude Pepper discusses Russia, peace, war, democracy, communism, power politics, Townsend Bill, sick and aging. September 6, 1947. Audiocassette AV A (274)
- Radio speech by Claude Pepper on Senior Citizens Centers grant from the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare and Model Cities Park grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. He discusses low-cost meals for the elderly and employment for senior citizens. June 26, 1968. Audiocassette AV A (529).

## VIDEO RECORDINGS IN CLAUDE PEPPER LIBRARY

Documentary "Aging in America: Dignity or Despair?" Bringing together a diverse group of experts on a seventeen person panel with host Ted Koppel, this excellent three-part series illustrates the problems with aging in our society. Topics include aging, elderly, health care, long term care, Social Security, care, chronic illness, insurance, nursing home, ageism, employment, retirement, adult day care, the stress of families giving care to elderly parents, care-giving, and the lack of respect for senior citizens. Panelist Claude Pepper speaks on various topics throughout the program. 1988. Videocassette AV B (254)

NBC program entitled "Sunday Today," in which Claude Pepper gives emotional speech about \$30 billion bill to provide home care for sick and elderly that was not approved by Congress. 1988. Videocassette AV B (318)

Claude Pepper speaking at podium with "Senior Power" sign at Capitol Hill. He speaks about AFL-CIO, Lane Kirkland (President of AFL-CIO) and Social Security. Location: U.S. \* Capitol. Produced by WETA." ca. 1981. Videocassette AV B (103)

Claude Pepper interviewed by Bob Ewing. Discussing aging issues, including mandatory retirement, employment, discrimination, voting. February 1979. Videocassette AV B (116)

"Wait Till We're 65." Includes Steve Allen, Dale Evans, Roy Rogers, Macdonald Carey, Dr. Robert Butler, and Claude Pepper. Topics: senior citizens, mandatory retirement, National Institute on Aging. December 1981. Videocassette AV B (129)

Claude Pepper at Save Social Security Rally - at two different places. Pepper and other politicians, including Ted Kennedy and Tip O'Neill speak to senior citizens and others gathered outside Congress to protest cuts in Social Security. 1981. Videocassette AV B (193)

Centenarians Day ceremony on Capitol Hill. News report with profiles of 100 year old people. Includes John Heinz and Claude Pepper, who was made an honorary centenarian. Also an awards presentation sponsored by the National Institute on Aging and the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons in honor of Centenarians Day. July 1987. Videocassette AV B (209)

Claude Pepper discussing long term health care for the elderly. He discusses the Committee on Aging and the Subcommittee on Health and Long Term Care. July 12, 1985 Videocassette AV B (269).

"Aging... A Shared Experience." A program about aging, the physically and mentally disabled, AARP (American Association of Retired Persons). Dr. T. Franklin Williams, Director of the National Institute on Aging, and Claude Pepper both speak. 1988. Videocassette AV B (433)

Claude Pepper speaks about National Health Conference on Fraud. Pepper also discusses award for best report from media on fraud, especially fraud against the elderly. March 11, 1988. Videocassette AV B (433)

## U.S. HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON AGING FILES

These materials comprehensively document Claude Pepper's accomplishments shaping public policy. Topics include age discrimination, Alzheimer's Disease, cancer, cataract surgery, catastrophic health care coverage, disabilities, elder abuse, fraudulent credentials, guardianship, health insurance, hearing aids, inter-generational issues, long-term care, mail fraud, mandatory retirement, medical reimbursement, Medicaid, Medicare, Medigap, medical quackery, nursing homes, prescription drugs, retirement, and Social Security.

Series 302A, 1967-1993. (**Claude Pepper Library**)

## ADDITIONAL U.S. HOUSE/SENATE COMMITTEE PAPERS

You may also wish to consult the *Congressional Information Service (CIS) Congressional Masterfile 1*, (**Strozier Documents CD-ROM CIS MFI**) and the *CIS Index to Unpublished US Senate Committee Hearings, 1823-1964* (**Strozier Documents Ref Z1223 .Z7 C48**), and the *CIS Annual, 1970-1995* (**Doc Ref Z1223 .Z7 C6**), in the Documents/Maps/Micromaterials Department of the Florida State University Libraries.

You may also wish to consult the *Congressional Indexes, 1789-1969*, and the *Indexes to Unpublished Hearings*. They are available on the Lexis-Nexis Congressional Universe website, accessible from the FSU Libraries Databases webpage, at <http://www.fsu.edu/~library/luis.html>