

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Charles Hayes

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Hayes, Charles, 1918-1997
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Charles Hayes,
Dates:	January 25, 1993
Bulk Dates:	1993
Physical Description:	1 Betacame SP videocassettes (0:31:03).
Abstract:	Labor leader and U.S. congressman The Honorable Charles Hayes (1918 - 1997) was elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1983. Hayes was also a life-long union worker, founding the United Packinghouse Workers of America and becoming vice president of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union. Hayes was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on January 25, 1993, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A1993_002
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Labor leader and U.S. congressman Charles A. Hayes was born on February 17, 1918 in Cairo, Illinois, and graduated from Cairo's Sumner High School in 1935.

While working as a machine operator in his hometown Hayes helped to organize the United Packinghouse Workers of America, which later became prominent in union reform movements for women and minorities. Hayes remained involved with the labor union movement for fifty years and eventually became vice president of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union.

In 1983, Hayes was elected as a member of the United States House of Representatives, a seat previously occupied by Chicago, Illinois Mayor Harold Washington. Hayes played a large role in Washington's mayoral campaign by lobbying, organizing people and raising money through his union. During his career in Congress, Hayes made a number of changes. He authored and introduced the School Improvement Act of 1987, which was later passed by the House. This act allocated millions of dollars to public schools across the country, allowing them to purchase textbooks, computers and supplies. He also introduced the Economic Bill of Rights, which outlined a plan for the equal distribution of national wealth. In addition, Hayes was an active member of Congress's Education and Labor Committee, as well as the Small Business Committee. He served as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives until January 3, 1993.

Hayes also was an ardent supporter of the civil rights movement. He was one of the founding members of Operation PUSH with Reverend Jesse Jackson, Sr. Also, Hayes worked with Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

A resident of Chicago, Illinois for most of his life, Hayes died from complications of lung cancer on April 8, 1997 at the age of 79.

Charles Hayes was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on January 25, 1993.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with The Honorable Charles Hayes was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on January 25, 1993, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 1 Betacame SP videocassettes. Labor leader and U.S. congressman The Honorable Charles Hayes (1918 - 1997) was elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1983. Hayes was also a life-long union worker, founding the United Packinghouse Workers of America and becoming vice president of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

Hayes, Charles, 1918-1997

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Haynes, Frank (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Hayes, Charles, 1918-1997--Interviews

African American labor leaders--Interviews.

African American civic leaders--Interviews.

African American politicians--Illinois--Interviews.

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Rainbow/PUSH Coalition

Occupations:

Labor Leader

U.S. Congressman

HistoryMakers® Category:

CivicMakers|PoliticalMakers

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Charles Hayes, January 25, 1993.
The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The

HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Charles Hayes, Section A1993_002_001_001, TRT: 0:31:03 ?

Former US Congressman Charles Hayes discusses his career trajectory from a union organizer to Congress. He details his mentors and compatriots that have influenced him both in Chicago and Washington. He shares his advice for future generations and comments on how he would like to be remembered. Finally, Hayes shares some of his political views. This interview was conducted in 1993 as part of Tanqueray's 'Times to Remember in African American History'.

United States. Congress. House.

Chicago (Ill.)--Politics and government.

Washington (D.C.)--Politics and government.

Labor unions.