

## Introduction

Controversial politician and clergyman Adam Clayton Powell was active in many labor organizations and militant groups. He was elected to New York City council in 1941, and first elected to U.S. Congress in 1945. In 1967, Powell was excluded by the House of Representatives for alleged misuse of House funds, contempt of New York court orders concerning a libel judgment against him, and conduct unbecoming a member.

Powell was reelected in a special 1967 election and again in 1968. He was seated in the 1969 Congress but was fined \$25,000 and deprived of his seniority. In June 1969 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Powell's expulsion from the House had been constitutional. Powell was defeated for reelection in 1970.

The FBI file covers the years 1943 to the 1960s and contains newspaper clippings and close accounts of Adam Clayton Powell's movements.

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This file is in approximate chronological order, and the FBI did not index documents. The Roll Notes is not a complete inventory of the file; however, it gives an indication of the types of material or specific documents that may be particularly worthwhile for research.