

## CONGRESSIONAL PROBE INTO RACIAL HARASSMENT AT THE FBI LAUNCHED IN RESPONSE TO GRAY LETTER

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Rep. William H. Gray, III (D-Pa) today announced that the Senate Judiciary Committee has launched an investigation into the alleged racial harassment of a black FBI agent.

The probe is in response to a letter sent to the committee by Gray on behalf of Special Agent Donald Rochon. Rochon charges that he was the victim of harassment, intimidation and threats of mutilation and death by white FBI agents in Omaha and Chicago. Rochon now is assigned to

the FBI's Philadelphia office. In his letter to Gray, Sen. Joseph Biden, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, writes that "Rochon's allegations, as described both in your letter and the Department of Justice Final Decision in this matter, are indeed alarming and certainly warrant investigation by the Judiciary Committee."

Sen. Biden goes on to say that he has instructed committee staff to begin an investigation of the matter. The committee will look not only at Agent Rochon's case, but also at the FBI's overall atti-

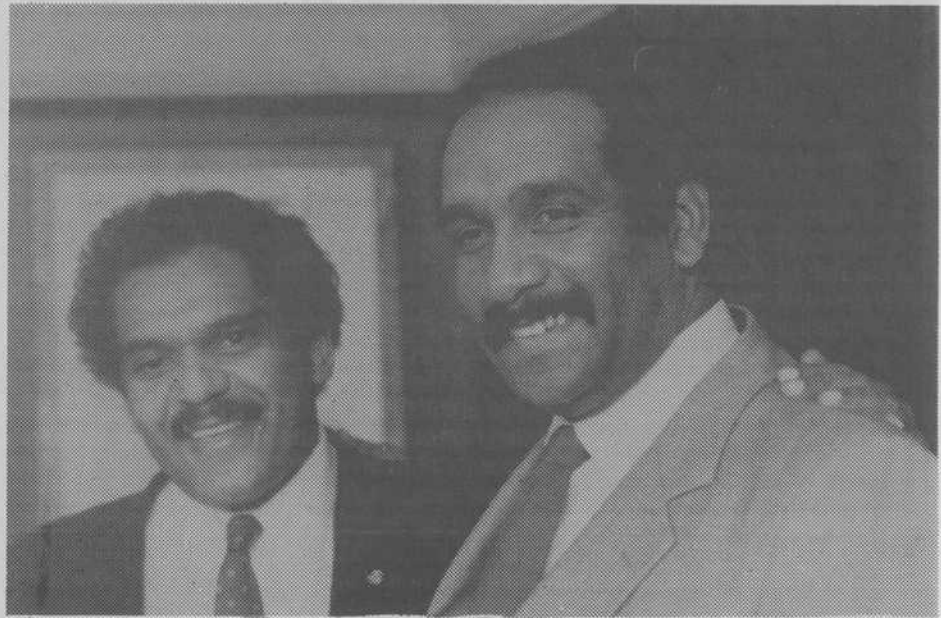
tude toward its minority personnel.

Gray welcomes Biden's probe into Rochon's allegations.

"I believe that once this investigation is concluded, it can restore confidence in the FBI, the country's top law enforcement agency."

Gray added: "We have also received communications from the new director of the FBI, William Sessions, saying that the Rochon case has been referred for study and that he would keep us apprised of that inquiry."

## MITCHELLS FIGHT BACK, CHARGE MEESE CONSPIRACY



Sen. Michael Bowen Mitchell & Former Sen. Clarence M. Mitchell, III

## BLACK MEETING PLANNERS CONFER IN LAS VEGAS



**MEETING PLANNERS VISIT LAS VEGAS** — Clark County Commissioner William Pearson (left) and Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority Sales Executive Roosevelt Toston, welcome Elsie Scott, Executive Director of National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives to the "Convention and Entertainment" Capital. Dr. Scott was one of 200 attendees at the National Coalition of Black Meeting Planners Conference in Las Vegas, in November.

It is estimated that black conventions and tourism inject over \$2 billion annually into the economy of the United States.

Acutely aware of their convention dollars, some 200 members of the National Coa-

lition of Black Meeting Planners gathered at Bally's Las Vegas recently, and held workshops that dealt with such topics as: "Using Your Economic Clout," "Everything is Negotiable," "Creative PR."

The group was treated to a gala opening reception hosted by the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority and Bally's. Popular entertainer, Edie Aikels and Inner Beauty performed, as well as dancers from the award winning Jubilee stage review. Slides of past conferences were shown, and a

BALTIMORE, MD — Sons of the late Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr., NAACP's veteran civil rights leader, Maryland's former State Senator Clarence M. Mitchell, III and State Senator Michael Bowen Mitchell, charged today that Edwin Meese, U.S. Attorney General, conspired with Maryland U.S. Attorney Breckinridge Wilcox, to turn around a proper legal retainer and fee of \$50,000 to perform general legal services into a big lie and a criminal frame-up in political retaliation.

Clarence, founder of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators of which he was 7 year president, was a

special skit for key NCBMP officials highlighted Bally's portion of the reception. The Alexis Park Resort hosted a reception for the meeting planners, and other hotels provided complimentary shows.

Thirty-two local high school students attended a morning Career Forum with representatives of the National Association of College Admissions Counselors which was followed by a luncheon.

Both the City of Las Vegas and Clark County sent repre-

leader in the defeat of the racist Selma, Alabama U.S. prosecutor for a federal judgeship and the defeat of William Bradford Reynolds for higher office. He was an outspoken member of the Maryland State Legislature for 24 years.

Maryland U.S. prosecutors admitted in motions hearings that on at least four occasions contact was made with the Washington U.S. Attorney General's office to determine what to charge the Mitchell brothers with.

They were subsequently charged in indictments with conspiracy with officials of Wedtech, a Bronx, N.Y. defense contractor, to influence their uncle, Congressman Parren J. Mitchell, to stop a congressional investigation into the corporation's minority status. He testified that his nephews had never asked him to do anything about Wedtech.

A federal jury in the U.S. District Court of Maryland found them not guilty of the basic charge of conspiracy, but guilty of wire fraud and

sentatives to welcome the VIPs. Richard Blue presented keys to the city, and Sam Head presented a proclamation to NCBMP President, Howard W. Mills and Chairman of the Board, Kermit Hall.

NCBMP is a relatively new organization — 4 years old — and its membership includes college students who are pursuing degrees in the hospitality industry and suppliers such as airlines, hotels and convention bureau representatives.

Las Vegas is expected to benefit significantly, realizing an increase in summer business from hosting the Fall NCBMP conference.

other acts flowing from the conspiracy.

Lawyers for the Mitchell brothers prepared to file motions this week to set aside the inconsistent verdicts.

Clarence and Michael have steadfastly maintained their innocence of all charges and vowed to fight for their total vindication through all the appeal courts.

Former State Senator Clarence Mitchell charged that the two year federal investigation of them accompanied by the harassing constant leaks to the press prior to their indictment, was part of a nationwide plan by the Reagan Administration to poison the climate of public opinion and to drive outspoken black elected officials from public office, as in post Reconstruction days.

Veteran political leaders see this as the Reagan plot to dilute black political gains from the 1965 Voting Rights Act, whose passage through the Congress was spear-headed by their late father, Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr., Director of the Washington Bureau NAACP. The historic Baltimore City Court House is named for him.

"We are being victimized by a corrupt justice department conspiracy far worse than Nazi Germany or Communist Russia, orchestrated by U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese himself," said former State Senator Clarence Mitchell. "In Nazi Germany and Communist countries, you knew there was no justice. Meese is carrying out his conspiracy in the name of democracy, relegating dissenters to the status of criminals."

"Meese and his cohorts are thieves of the highest

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### FIVE SEATS OPEN ON ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY BOARD (EOB)

Individuals interested in running for election to 3-year terms representing low-income residents of Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, and Clark County may file for election during November at EOB Administrative Offices. 5 seats open. Elections held December 8, 1987. Call 647-2010 for additional information.