

*"Where there is no vision, the people perish. Sometimes, as we try to reach for the objectives that our people deserve, there are those of limited horizons who seem to believe that we are asking too much or speaking too boldly."*

**The Clarence Mitchell, Jr., Symposium  
"His Struggle for Racial Equality"  
Tuesday, January 30 - February 2, 2001**

**The Purpose:**

To promote the critical study of the works and contributions of Clarence Mitchell, Jr., who got the Legislative Branch to join the Judicial Branch and Executive Branches in upholding the Constitution for the protection of the rights of African Americans and others victims of discrimination. The symposium seeks to awaken interest in the legislative struggle as essential to understanding the broader scope of the civil rights movement within the constitutional context of America's egalitarian principles.

**The Man:**

Clarence Mitchell, Jr. was NAACP labor secretary from 1946 to 1950 and director of the NAACP Washington Bureau from 1950 to 1978, when he retired. During that period, he was also legislative director of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, a coalition of civil rights, labor, religious, fraternal and civic organizations that worked with the NAACP to win passage of civil rights laws. Born in Baltimore in 1911, he achieved a legendary reputation in Washington, D.C. that earned popular recognition as the "101st senator."

**The Mission:**

The symposium will bring together some of those who knew and worked closely with him in the halls of power in Washington to assess and critique his vast legacy in an effort to provide a better appreciation for the continuing struggle to implement, preserve and strengthen the products of the movement.

The program's main theme is the extent to which Mitchell achieved the embodiment of his humanitarian and egalitarian philosophy through the legislative process.

It is designed to:

- Broaden awareness of the importance of Mitchell's role and contributions as a civil rights lobbyist and leader.
- Encourage scholarly studies of the historical foundations of the civil rights laws passed by congress.

- Encourage appreciation for the need to persevere and strengthen Mitchell's legacy.
- Develop a broader understanding of and appreciation for the NAACP's egalitarian philosophy as essential to strengthening America's democracy.
- Encourage the comprehensive teaching of civil rights history at all levels of education.

**Who should attend?**

- Scholars in history, political science, law, and social scientists.
- Junior and senior high school and college students.
- Curriculum planners.

**Information:**

For information about the program, sessions or speakers contact professor Denton L. Watson, American Studies Department, SUNY College at Old Westbury, at (516) 876- 3393, (516) 546-3381, or by e-mail at: watsond@oldwestbury.edu or Denniewatson@aol.com

For registration information, contact the Office of Bursar: (516) 876-3168.

For extended background on Mitchell and his works, please see: **Lion in the Lobby, Clarence Mitchell, Jr.'s Struggle for the Passage of Civil Rights Laws**, by Denton L. Watson (Morrow, 1990).

**Registration:**

Fill out and mail the Registration form with your payment to:

Bursar/Clarence Mitchell, Jr. Symposium  
 Campus Center Room I-104  
 SUNY College at Old Westbury  
 Box 210  
 New York 11568-0210

**Transportation and Conference Information:**

The three airports serving Old Westbury are LaGuardia, JFK, and MacArthur.

**Local:**

**Hempstead Transportation:** 1-800-424-5559

From: JFK, to LaGuardia	MacArthur
Lincoln	\$50
Limo (can hold 3)	\$75
Van (can hold 11)	\$90
Minibus (holds 17)	\$200
	\$60
	\$85
	\$90
	\$250

**All Island Taxi Service:** 1-800-545-4551

JFK Airport: \$32 and \$3 for an additional person( up to 3)

LaGuardia Airport: \$30 and \$3 for an additional person (up to 3)

MacArthur Airport: \$55 and \$3 for an additional person (up to 3)

Alternate forms of transportation are:

**Amtrak** to Penn Station in New York City.

**Grey-hound Bus**

To Port Authority in New York City, possibly connecting to Hempstead on Long Island.

**Long Island Railroad**

From Penn Station to Hicksville, and taxi from there to the SUNY Old Westbury campus.

**Hotel Accommodations:\***

Long Island Marriott, Uniondale (\$139) 1-800-228-9290

Holiday Inn, Westbury, (\$134) 1-800-465-4329

Complimentary shuttle service will be provided between the Old Westbury campus and hotel.

\* indicate Clarence Mitchell, Jr, Symposuim

**Clarence Mitchell, Jr., Symposium**

The symposium is structured on consecutive panels with people who knew and worked closely with Mitchell or are familiar with his works. Each panel will permit audience participation through a question and answer period. On the evening preceding the first session, there will be the opening of an exhibition of pictures of Mitchell with others with whom he worked and a selection of his mementos. A video of two of his oral history interviews will be shown.

Clarence Mitchell, Jr.

**Registration Form\*** Please PRINT the following information:

Name (first, last) \_\_\_\_\_

Organization/Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please CHECK ALL items that apply to your registration. TOTAL the costs

**Professional** with meals (continental breakfast, hot lunch and dinner.)

_____	Early Professional Registration - before Jan. 15, 2001 - 1 day	\$115.00
_____	Early Professional Registration - 2 days	\$157.00
_____	Late Professional Registration - after Jan. 15, 2001 - 1 day	\$142.00
_____	Late Professional Registration - 2 days	\$186.00
_____	3 <sup>rd</sup> Day - No Registration fee required - Breakfast & Lunch	\$ 25.00

**Student\***

_____	Early Registration - before Jan. 15, 2001 - 1 day	\$ 10.00
_____	_____ with meals \$ 49	_____ 2 days with meals \$ 88.00
_____	Late Student Registration - after Jan. 15, 2001 - 1 day	\$ 15.00
_____	_____ with meals (1 day) \$55	_____ 2 days with meals \$95.00

\*identification required

Mail to: Bursar/Clarence Mitchell, Jr., Symposium, CC Room 1-104  
SUNY College at Old Westbury, Box 210, New York, NY 11568-0210

Program Organized by: Prof. Denton L. Watson

Editor

Clarence Mitchell, Jr., Papers

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**Program**  
**Clarence Mitchell, Jr., Symposium**  
**"His Struggle for Racial Equality"**

**January 30 to February 2, 2001**  
(Incomplete List of Participants)

**Tues. Jan. 30**

**2:30 -- Registration**

**2:30 --Exhibition**

Amelie A. Wallace Gallery -- pictures of Mitchell with other historical figures, letters and historical mementos, as well as of those of his wife Juanita and mother-in-law Lillie May Jackson, both of whom desegregated Maryland

The exhibition is open during the symposium.

**4:30 - 7:00 p.m. -- Maguire Theatre**

Welcome: Dr. Onita Estes-Hicks, Chair, English Language Studies

**Symposium Overview: "Clarence Mitchell, Jr., the Man and His Mission"**

Prof. Denton L. Watson, project director/editor, Clarence Mitchell, Jr., Papers.

**Address**

Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III, President

**Reception in Campus Center Atrium**

**All panel discussion sessions will be held in the Maguire Theater.**

**Wednesday, Jan. 31**

**8:00 -- Registration**

**8:45 - 9:45 a.m. - "Remembering Daddy and His Works,"**

Michael B. Mitchell, and Dr. Keiffer J. Mitchell, sons, on the legacy of their family in Maryland

**9:45 - 10:30 a.m. Readings**

"In Mitchell's Words" Charles Turner, dramatist

**10:45 - 11:45 a.m.**

**Keynote --**

12:15 - 2 p.m.

**Lunch**

**Speaker --**

2:30 - 5 p.m. -- **"Clarence Mitchell, Jr., the NAACP, and the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights"**

The role of the coalition as Mitchell's vehicles for achieving change

**Panelists:** Hon. Nathaniel R. Jones, U.S. Court of Appeals, Cincinnati; Ralph Neas, former executive director, LCCR; Yvonne Price, legislative aide to Mitchell; William L. Taylor, general counsel, LCCR

**Moderator:** Wade Henderson, Esq., executive director, LCCR

5:30 - 7:00 p.m. **Dinner**

7:30 - 9:00 p.m. **"The Role of Congress in Ensuring Racial Equality in Such Areas as Title VI and School Desegregation."**

The struggle to enact the Powell Amendment barring discrimination in federal spending required special political forces and strategies to succeed. Are Mitchell's strategies applicable today, and what are possible ways in which he would have sought to strengthen the law's enforcement to remedy historical wrongs?

**Panel:** Leon Panetta, director of the Office of Civil Rights, department of Health, Education and Welfare, Nixon Administration; Michael H. Sussman, attorney

**Moderator:** Dennis Courtland Hayes, general counsel, NAACP

**Thursday, Feb. 1**

8 - 10:00 a.m. **Registration**

8:45 - 11:45 a.m. **"The Role of the Executive Branch in Strengthening the Constitutional Promise of Equality -- Is There a Better Way than Affirmative Action?"**

The historical roots of the equal employment struggle beginning with the Fair Employment Practice Committee and how we got to the current impasse

**Panel:** Attorney General Nicholas deB. Katzenbach, the Johnson administration; Wade Henderson, Esq., executive director, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights; Leonard Garment, White House civil rights liaison, Nixon Administration; Ramsey Clark, Attorney General - Johnson Administration

**Moderator:** Dennis Courtland Hayes, general counsel, NAACP

12:15 - 2 p.m. **Lunch**

**Speaker** --

2:30 - 5:00 p.m. -- **"Judicial Interpretations of Mitchell's Legacy on Civil Rights Law"**

Federal Courts of Appeals Judges Nathaniel R. Jones; Matthew J. Perry, Jr., United States District Court, Columbia, South Carolina; Elaine R. Jones, Esq., President and Director/counsel, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.

**Moderator:** Jack Greenberg, former director/counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund

5:30 - 7 p.m. **Dinner**

7:30 - 9:00 p.m. **"Clarence Mitchell, Jr., the Man and the Lobbyist"**

Personal recollections of some who worked closely with Mitchell

**Panel:** Gwen Cunningham, former secretary, NAACP Washington Bureau; Evelyn Harvey, former secretary, NAACP Washington Bureau; Congressman Peter Rodino; Sen. Charles McG. Mathias; Joseph R. L. Sterne, former editorial page editor, The Baltimore Sun; John G. Stewart, legislative aide to Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey

**Moderator:** Dr. Genna Rae McNeil, professor, Department of History, University of North Carolina

**Friday, Feb. 2**

8:00 -- **Registration**

8:45 - 10:45 a.m. **"Scholarly Interpretations of Mitchell's Works"**

An examination of the impact of the legislative struggle on the civil rights movement

**Panel:** Dr. Timothy N. Thurber, assistant professor of History, SUNY Oswego; Dr. Patricia Sullivan, W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for Afro-American Research, Harvard University; Dr. John Willertz, professor of History, Saginaw Valley State University

**Moderator:** Dr. John H. Bracey, Jr., Afro-American Studies Department, University of Massachusetts Amherst

12:15 - 2 p.m. **Lunch**

**Speaker:** Revent Adelaide Sanford

**"Clarence Mitchell, Jr.'s Legacy and Equal Opportunity in Education"**

2:30 - 3:45 p.m. **"Old Westbury's Role in Forging a Meaningful Partnership with Metropolitan-area Schools"**

Discussions will be conducted against the historical backdrop of the struggle for equal education opportunity

**Panel:** Dr. Constance R. Clark, superintendent, Westbury Union Free School District; Dr. Les Black, superintendent, Brentwood School District; Dr. Aldustus Jordan, Associate Dean, School of Medicine, Suny at Stony Brook

**Moderator:** Dr. Ruby Sprott, Teacher Education, SUNY College at Old Westbury

**3:45 to 4:30 p.m. Questions and answers**

4:30 - 5:00 p.m. **Summation and Closing Remark**

Dr. Aubrey W. Bonnett, vice president of Academic Affairs, SUNY Old Westbury