AS FAR AS THE EYE COULD SEE, the vast Civic Center Howard Room auditorium was filled. This is only a portion of the gala March 5 "Evening with Parren Mitchell." The photo by Roman Hankewycz shows the gold and blue balloons floating by the hundreds above the tables with gold and blue cloths and napkins. Arrangements and color scheme were by George Minor, the congressman's executive assistant, George Taylor and George Bennett.

'Lean on me,' P.J. tells 2,000 friends

Congressman Parren J. Mitchell and over 2,000 of his friends and well-wishers dined and danced together last Friday night in the Howard Room of the Baltimore Civic Center.

The $25 a plate affair featured Congresswoman Barbara Jordan of Texas and friends of P.J.'s from as far away as Los Angeles, Calif., and Atlanta, Ga.

Seated at main tables were over 50 prominent political figures; doctors; men of the cloth; men and women of the BAR and well known names and faces from a gamut of professions.

And, in the words of Congresswoman Jordan, "They all came to show P.J. how much they loved him."

Since it was a program whose purpose was to demonstrate, in numbers and dollars, support for P.J.'s upcoming campaign for re-election to the U.S. Congress, the speakers and performers on the podium all preceded the guest of honor.

The solo, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," as sung by Ms. Audrey Phillips opened the program with stirring effectiveness.

She was followed by Rev. Mr. A. C. D. Vaughn, president of Baptist Ministers Conference of Baltimore who gave the invocation.

Congresswoman Jordan spoke briefly and most effectively on the kind of leadership P.J. has demonstrated since he has been in Congress. She told the audience that "When the founding Fathers started this country they didn't even know the meaning of the word democracy."

Outlining the course which democracy has taken over the 200 years of America's existence she asked a rapt audience, "And do you know that there are some people leading this country today who still don't know the meaning of the word?"

But is was P.J.'s night and when he took to the podium his audience rose to greet him. They expected just what they got: Congressman Parren J. Mitchell at his very best.

"Lean on me," he extolled, "when you're in trouble; when you need help and there's no one to help you: Lean On Me! Tell your friends who can't find jobs; talk to your neighbors who can't pay the rent; go and see the men and the women in the penal institutions and tell them that if there is anything that can be done, P.J., their man in Congress will try to do it. Tell them that they can lean on me."

Cong. Mitchell's speech was matched only by the lively, spirited dancing which followed it.

The music was supplied by "Infinite Experience" featuring Calvin Brooks.

Also, highlighting the program was the gospel singing of The Nathan Carter Singers.

Mrs. Madeline Murphy, free lance writer and AFRO-AMERICAN columnist, introduced the guest speaker.

Rev. Mr. Vernon N. Dobson spoke to the occasion pointing out that "The only thing about this whole affair tonight is that we have left Jesus out."

During his 15 minute talk, Rev. Mr. Dobson, in no uncertain terms put Jesus in the program.

Texas Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, guest speaker; Mrs. Madeline Wheeler Murphy, the AFRO columnist who introduced her and the honoree Maryland's first U.S. representative, Congressman Parren J. Mitchell.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS — Norman Carroll, Civic Center official; Mrs. Dasiita Jo Wood, the famed singing star; Dr. and Mrs. P. C. Smith; Mr. and Mrs. Keiffer Mitchell; George Mitchell and City Councilman Mitchell; Mrs. Juanita Mitchell and Mrs. Virginia Kiah, curator of the Dr. Lillie M. Jackson Museum.

(AFRO staff photos by Roman Hankewycz)

NATIONAL POSTAL EMPLOYEES — From left: Clifton Harris, president, local No. 202 Postal Alliance; Mrs. Clarice Bass, Sec., Postal; Richard Blackwell, trustee; Mrs. Adelaine Wills, Edward Hunt, treas.; and Mrs. Sally Wallace, Miss Postal Alliance 1975. Dr. Navnit Raval, Coppin State; Dr. Sushila Raval, Morgan State; Mrs. Bharati Pareth, CCB; William Parker, Mrs. Rachel DeFord and Glascoe Rayales.

SCHOOL COMMISSIONER and Mrs. David Sloan.

Ronald Gregory, United Teachers of Baltimore City and Donald Gregory of the Postal Union.

Members of the International Longshoreman's Assoc. Local No. 333 include Pres. Garris McFadden, V. Pres. Albert Brown, Sec.-Treas. James Caldwell, Rec. Sec. John Krysiah (not shown) Walking Delegate Simon Davis, Walking Delegate John Gueller (not shown), Container Inspector William D. Parrish, Safety Superintendent Melvin T. Wilkerson, I.T.O. member Melvin Rice, I.L.A. checker Leroy Morsell, and Ford lift operator Otis McCuller.

ANOTHER SECTION of the vast crowd of over 2,000 guests who came to P.J.'s Dinner March 12 also shows the dramatic and joyful setting. Despite the late hour and the usual practice of guests creeping out after dining, the throng stayed until after midnight to chat and dance. Congressman Mitchell table-hopped and shook hands with each guest to express gratitude. Repeated cheers went up from various areas of the banquet hall. When Mr. Mitchell gave his "Lean On Me" talk, the audience rose with great applause and many were seen wiping tears from their eyes.

Carl Albert sums up Mitchell's six years

Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Carl Albert of Oklahoma, unable to attend, sent a letter to be read at the dinner honoring Congressman Mitchell.

He said, "Dear Friends: due to a long standing commitment, I regret that I am unable to tell you, his friends and supporters who have gathered this evening, of the fine job that Congressman Parren Mitchell has done in the 92nd, 93rd and 94th Congresses of the United States.

"To work effectively with our new President, and I am confident that there will be a Democrat in the White House next year, the Congress must have effective, diligent and hardworking members.

"Such a member is my friend, colleague and co-worker, Parren Mitchell.

"I have worked with Parren here in Congress for six years now, and in those six years he has amply demonstrated to the Democratic Congressional leadership his willingness to go to bat for those who need help the most, the common people.

"Where Congress has offered a willing and helping hand to the American citizen, the current Administration has offered up only the indignation of unemployment, a callous disregard of human needs and the grim prospects of an uncertain future.

"I know that I can depend on Parren Mitchell to cast his vote for those who believe in America's future and who reject the notion that we in Congress are only to serve the elite few.

"More importantly, however, Parren rightly understands that the role of a hardworking Congressman is not limited to simply casting his single vote on the House Floor.

Many of the scholars who study the workings of Congress maintain that the real work of Congress is done in the Committees, for it is here that legislation takes form, is shaped and argued over.

"Strong leadership qualities

(Continued On Page 12)

JUDGES Mary Arabian and John Hargrove, City Councilwoman Mary B. Adams and Bar President Charles Jose.

(AFRO staff photos by Roman Hankewycz)

ASSISTANT DEAN

The position of Assistant Dean is available July 1, 1976, at a large East Coast, metropolitan Law School. Candidates must be law graduates or be graduating in June of 1976, and must have exhibited academic administrative and human relations skills especially in a higher education environment. The position is non-teaching, general administration in nature, emphasizing decision implementation skills. Salary in the mid-teens. Resumes and salary requirements should be forwarded to:

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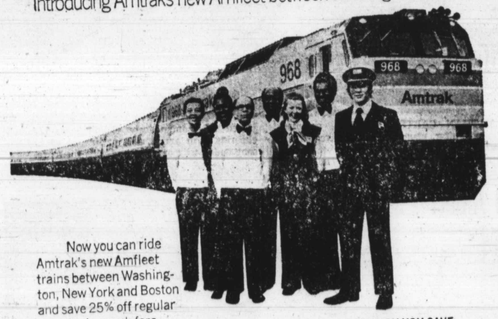

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