Baltimore Afro-American

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Sachs/Mitchell

The addition of Congressman Parren Mitchell to the Steven Sachs Campaign for governor as his running mate is a bold political move that should be applauded.

For one thing it gives weight to the theme of the "One Maryland" that Sachs has been using. His addition of a black candidate to a state-wide ticket is a move that is needed in Maryland Democratic politics.

The addition of Mitchell emphasizes a new importance that the office of lieutenant-governor will have if Sachs is elected. Parren Mitchell is not a man to keep silent when he feels he should speak and not one to fade into obscurity in a ceremonial job.

Sachs must have intentions of keeping his promise to make the Lieutenant governor a full partner in his administration if he picked a man as independent and forthright as Mitchell.

The Mitchell choice brings a wealth of prestige, national experience and a reputation for getting things done. Mitchell has been hailed as "Mr. Small Business" in Washington and with his minority setaside legislation bringing millions in revenue into the black business community nationwide, Mitchell should be able to bring a good deal of campaign money with him. Persons helped by federal officials usually contribute to their campaigns and Mitchell has helped many small business people.

Some more cynical observers have called the selection of Mitchell a desperate gesture from a candidate who is way behind. In reality it is a step forward into the modern age for Maryland politics and the sizeable black population which had largely been ignored for statewide office.

Provident Hospital

The forced merger of Provident Hospital with Lutheran Hospital is a sad event in the life of black Baltimoreans. Eternal optimists may say that at least the hospital is still open. Others will say that some jobs were saved, which is true.

Still, the black community has lost its largest black employer in the state. It has lost control of the only black hospital in the state, one that provided many doctors and nurses and other health care professionals with valuable training.

Provident provided health care to many who might not have received it otherwise, one of the causes of its financial difficulties. The hospital provided intangibles also. It instilled pride in young black people when they could go there and see black professional role models functioning efficiently.

The loss of Provident is a terrible wound to black Baltimore. All the protestations that the black political and economic elites make that they have arrived and they are ready for the mainstream have now been called to question. They could not even salvage a 92 year old black hospital that they all profess to love.

They could not settle the glaring leadership flaws that affected the hospital adversely for years and they could not mediate the doctors' boycott that sent revenues spiraling downward along with admissions.

The death of Provident Hospital is an indictment of the black leadership in this city that has seen Morgan St. University deteriorate and has seen the Shake and Bake facility go into city hands.

Apparently this leadership is capable of little more than rhetoric. If black people could sustain Provident through racism and the Great Depression when black people were much worse off economically, then the demise of Provident in 1986, when black people are supposedly caught up in the entrepreneurial spirit, is shameful.

The loss of Provident Hospital and even the name that was given to it 92 years ago by black people who dared to dream even in the midst of the worst period of lynching and Jim Crow is a disservice to their memories and their sacrifices.

Blackface policeman

Although former police officer Bobby Berger apparently has had his right to perform his black face Al Jolson routine on his own time upheld by the Supreme Court's refusal to review a lower court decision favoring Berger, the question of sensitivity and racism arises.

Berger claims his act is harmless and merely a nostalgic recreation of a great performer. He says it is not racist and he claims to be free of the taint of racism himself.

The NAACP took exception to Berger's claims and picketed a number of his performances. The controversy eventually resulted in Berger's removal from the police force.

With the Supreme Court allowing the lower court ruling to stand, the possibility surfaces that Berger may once again become a city policeman. It is very difficult to believe that a man who performs a blackface routine in the 1980's is a man who can view black citizens he may have to interact with in an official manner as equal persons under the law.

Black face entertainment by whites has historically been a brutal parody of blacks that denied them their humanity. The distorted portrayal of blacks in burned cork makeup became so pervasive in American entertainment that real black performers had to wear burned cork before they could get employment as minstrels.

Blackface entertainment is the very height of racism and symptomatic of a white entertainment industry lacking in decency and creativity. It relies on catering to racism.

Berger should do the act without black face. He would still be able to sing the Jolson songs and the performance would not draw the ire of the black community.

Letters to the Editor

There should be debates

Whether Mayor William Donald Schaefer has a decidedly strong edge in the straw polls among candidates for the Democratic Party's nomination for Governor of Maryland and whether his debating weaker opponents will give them public exposure and a possibility for relative gains in the polls, it is time for the debating issue to be settled.

Candidates for publicly elected offices owe the electorate an opportunity to hear their views expressed and challenged in a face-to-face debate among aspirants for the same office. The highest public office in Maryland should be no exception.

If actions speak louder than words, then the mayor of Baltimore has an abundance of accomplishments during his tenure as head of the city's government to speak for him. However, there are issues concerning the state that go beyond the boundaries of Baltimore City.

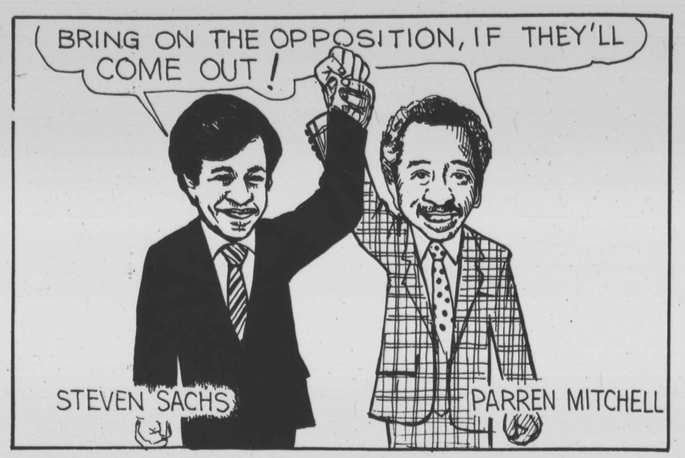
His perception of problems, priorities, policies, commitments, programs, and direction of movement for Baltimore City may not be the same for the whole of Maryland. It would be erroneous to assume otherwise.

Where does Attorney General Stephen Sachs stand on certain issues as compared with Mayor William Donald Schaefer? How do they handle themselves and the facts under intellectual crossfire? An informed electorate deserves a basis for selection among the contenders.

There is no substitute for public debate among those running for publicly elected offices. It is, therefore, urged that the candidates for their party's nomination for governorship submit their views and records in office to scrutiny and challenge in a series of debates at the earliest possible time under acceptable sponsorship.

Doing otherwise, in my view, serves to belittle the democratic process and show disrespect for the electorate.

HERBERT H. LINDSEY





Parren J. Mitchell

Ban the handgun lobby

Through unprecedented lobbying, the National Rifle Association (NRA) was able to strongarm Congress into passing a bill, sponsored by Congressman Harold Volkmer (D-MO).

The bill allows a person to cross state lines with any firearm, including a handgun, and overrides any local laws which forbid this. It also allows the crossing of state lines to buy a rifle or shotgun.

Additionally, the bill allows dealers to transfer and sell handguns from so-called "private" collections without keeping any records, thereby making guns involved in crimes untraceable.

Many of us in the House of Representatives tried to defeat the Volkmer bill. A coalition of 13 law enforcement organizations sent hundreds of police officers to to vigorously lobby for continuation of gun controls. Various citizen lobbies as well as church organizations also joined in opposition to the bill.

Why then ws the NRA able to repeal major gun control restrictions which have been in effect for almost twenty years? The Gun Control Act of 1968 was passed in response to assassinations of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert Kennedy.

The answer, plain and simple, is money and power. The NRA spent $1.6 million to support this bill. The coalition of law enforcement officers, who opposed the bill, had only $15,000 at their disposal.

The NRA contributed $1.4 million to congressinal campaigns in 1983 and '84. In addition, the NRA has 3 million members who can be translated into 3 million potential voters. As a result, the New York Times has called them "one of the best organized and most feared lobbies in Washington."

Congressman Robert Torricelli (D-NJ), who opposed the Volkmer bill said its passage represented "a classic example of the power of big money and a well-orchestrated campaign...It is an example of the Congress at its worse."

My colleagues and I know how influential NRA campaigns are against gun control advocates. During the 1982 congressional race, the NRA flooded the districts of several candidates, accusing them of restricting the rights of law-abiding citizens, simply because they endorsed gun control.

Referring to the organized power of NRA in the west, some western Congressmen have said that "gun control is the kind of an issue that could defeat a candidate when nothing else will."

Some argue that gun control laws never prevented criminals from getting guns. That may be true but strong gun control sure cuts down the number of criminals with guns.

It also cuts down the number of deaths which result from arguments and accidental gun firings. Over 15,000 people are killed every year by handguns. And that does not count the 70 police officers who are also murdered each year with these weapons.

The Volkmer bill now goes to President Reagan for final approval. When enacted, the NRA can claim a major victory in repealing existing gun laws. The time has come not only to disarm criminals, but to also disarm the National Rifle Association.



Anthony Armstrong

Remember the Indian

One of the major causes of the almost total demise of the American Indian was the belief, by those original Americans, that no one could be so cruel as to want their obliteration.

The Indians were wrong.

Similarly, although more than a century later, much of the Jewish population of Europe was destroyed, in part, because the Jewish people could not comprehend the thought of such a horrid idea, that one man would want the death of an entire people.

The Jews were wrong too.

It is not surprising that any group of people could find such massive and total betrayal to be so out of the question. So much so that neither the Indians or the Jews can be blamed for not believing that it could, in fact, did, occur.

Because of our very humanity, we human beings find such actions, by one group or individual against another group to be out of the range of possibility; thus even the thought of such things happenings can't quite register in our minds.

It's hard to accept betrayal; so hard that our thinking patterns usually avoid even the possibility that it would be. If the betrayal is by someone we trust completely our rationale will find every reason possible, except the one real reason, for that person's action.

I want to be very careful here because the matters at hand are very important ones and; what I'm about to write could possibly produce outrage in some readers. Let me ask each of you a simple yet crucial question.

Why did retiring congressman Parren Mitchell agree to become Steve Sachs' running mate? Why would a nationally recognized symbol agree to run for a job that far less figures would never consider trying to have?

What in the world could Mitchell gain from going from the virtual top of political positioning to the very bottom? Why would a man who just two weeks ago told us that he could not longer provide the energy to serve 500,000 people (the approximate size of a congressional district's population) come back and tell us he now wants to serve four million people—if only in a largely ceremonial capacity, which is essentially what the job of Lt. Governor amounts to?

We all know what Steve Sachs is up to; his is what is called in politics "the drowning man strategy." Such a move, for Sachs, could only be designed to win black voters, the one group he must have in order to gain just a snowball's chance in hell of even a respectable race.

The one penny sale tax increase Sachs shot himself in the foot with a few weeks ago, was another such drowning man move. His almost vice grip influence over the political actions of Kurt Schmoke through Larry Gibson, a local law school professor, is also cast in the same mold of using black readers to gain black votes; votes he would otherwise only have a crumb of a chance to get.

We know what Steve Sachs is trying to do and; if we needed anymore information we'd only have to look at the Sachs' handling of the state's savings and loan scandal. Forget Steve Sachs; we know what he's up to.

Why, however, why would Parren be doing such a demeaning dance? This situation is a little bit like Eddie Murray retiring from a glorious baseball career only to return to play for a minor league team.

It's s situation not much different than if President Reagan were to retire and then return to politics as a candidte for dog catcher of Marin County, California.

The Mitchell decision leaves the same sinking feeling that most of us had when Muhammad Ali announced he was returning to the boxing ring, only to embarrass himself after a stellar career.

Retiring congressmen particularly those with singular status, do not retire from congress to take jobs that neither have substenance or power? Of course Mitchell and everyone else who favors this weird decision, will say that P.J. is doing for the people. Well, such an answer will bring a smile but ot much believability I'm afraid.

Back to Indians and Jews; remember they didn't want to believe such things that happened to them could ever happen to anyone either. They didn't want to believe such betrayal could come from others in the human race and; many of us will never believe that Mitchell's move could be betrayal. Yet, the question still remains. Why?

In politics if you can see the move, what you see is usually not what really is. To find the answer to why Parren Mitchell is doing what he's doing one has to look somewhere other than public politics.

Just as Sachs is trying everything from the ridiculous to the ridiculous; Mitchell's move seems also to be of the drowning man type.

No, Parren isn't drowning, he probably enjoys as much prestige as any man in the state. However another member of his family is, in fact, and every one knows it because its been published and broadcast; Parren's nephew, state senator Clarence Mitchell is under intense scrutiny, by Federal investigators, for influence peddling.

Could it be, just possibly, that a deal has been struck: I'll help you get badly needed black votes; you help me get the "Feds" off my nephew's back? What a possibility; you would probably say, "impossible, not Parren."

I submit this to you: just remember the Indians and the Jews.

Disappointment and hurt

I have been an activist in the struggle for Civil Rights since 1947 when, as a boy of 16, I picketed Ford's Theatre every Saturday because of its Jim Crow policy. I was one of the original members of Baltimore CORE which — through sitins — integrated the five & ten and drugstore lunch counters.

I was an active participant and recruiter when the Civic Interest Groups integrated most of the rest of the state. In 1950, my senior year at the Park School, I organized a campaign to have the school council by an overwhelming majority vote to integrate.

In 1951, through my efforts, the Baltimore Hebrew Congregation's Young Peoples' Group sponsored both an interracial forum and an interracial dance.

Since then I have promoted Human Rights through literally dozens of forums, study groups, letters to the editor and more.

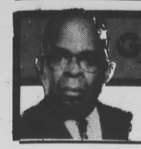
Last week I testified before the City Council to disinvest in South Africa. Since November of last year, when I registered to be a candidate in the Democratic primary for U.S. Senate, I have through several mostly white forums, called for unity between black and white against our ruling oligarchy. I particularly want to address black groups!

For my efforts, I have been arrested, physically attacked, slandered and suffered rejection from family and friends.

Imagine my disappointment, hurt and disgust when I found out that Delegate Larry Young's mostly Black Citizens' Democratic Action Organizationn held a senatorial forum for four of my opponents and discriminated against me!

Had I known in time, I would have conducted a "sit-in" until I was treated as an equal. Shame! Delegate Young and Company!

A. ROBERT KAUFMAN
Democratic Candidate For U.S. Senate



G. James Fleming

Sachs dares propel Maryland forward

Steve Sachs has dared to do something which may many of his political fellow-travellers must have warned him against.

Certainly, he has dared to do more than any other major candidate in this state—select a black fellow-citizen, Congressman Parren Mitchell, for the office of lieutenant governor, subject to the Maryland primary and subsequent election.

Sachs, Democratic candidate for governor, must have been told that it would never do for a person of the Jewish faith to have a person of the black race as his running mate.

More than that, Sachs must have struggled with his reality himself. For it must be faced that the Free State of Maryland still chokes on taking forward movement on matters racial — in some regions more than in others.

But, Maryland may surprise us all and surprise itself by following in the footsteps already achieved by Virginia which last year elected L. Douglas Wilder, a veteran state legislator, as its lieutenant governor, with the support and blessing of Charles Robb, the outgoing governor and son-in-law of President Lyndon Johnson.

It took some daring on the part of Steve Sachs, presently attorney general, but he could not have made a more fortunate choice.

By experience, by long service in government agencies, 16 years as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, and an adult life spent in one phase of practical politics or the other, Parren Mitchell passes all the tests — and more — that could be required of a candidate for lieutenant governor, even of governor.

In addition, as this column said a fortnight ago, he is "Mr. Clean" when it comes to character and integrity.

In addition, he has a wide following throughout the state and is most acceptable to blacks and other urban Marylanders. He should attract thousands of extra voters to the Sachs-Mitchell ticket.

Parren Mitchell on the Steve Sachs ticket, however, does not guarantee any miracle against an opponent with the stature and batting average of Mayor William Donald Schaefer — and his formidable campaign chest.

If Parren Mitchell is to be the second black lieutenant governor in this nation, black voters in all parts of the state must vote, in large numbers, for Sachs for governor and Mitchell for lieutenant governor. This is especially true of blacks in the populous areas of the state—Greater Baltimore and the Washington counties of Maryland.

From the point of view of racial progress, it is very important to elect the ticket with Parren Mitchell, all other things being equal.

The Sachs-Mitchell ticket will put a special responsibility on the several black candidates running for the General Assembly. As they approach the Democratic primary, they must also campaign as much as possible for the Sachs-Mitchell ticket.

Not that all blacks will jump on the Sachs-Mitchell bandwagon. Past loyalties, IOUs which are due, and just the right of honest choice, will influence some of the black vote.

Nevertheless, this is one of those times and one of those opportunities for achieving racial progress. And, although some voices will be saying that the office of lieutenant governor has few, if any powers, others can say:

"The office of lieutenant governor exists, and it takes on the stature and the meaningfulness of the person who occupies it."

Parren Mitchell will give the office stature, meaning and direction.



Tony Brown's Comments

Two-party racism

The establishment press has decided that New York's Governor Mario Cuomo can lead his party out of the doldrums and into the White House.

Time magazine carried the smiling likeness of Cuomo on the cover last week. "Some believe that out of this man's head and heart may come the soul of a new Democratic Party, and perhaps the strength to lead it to the White House in 1988," Time said. That's an endorsement if ever there was one.

Cuomo has a 70 percent approval rating in New York and won the state's top job because of the Black vote: in fact, it was a Black vote against New York's Mayor Ed Koch, his rival. But this son of Italian immigrants had something the Black voters liked: soul.

Time described his "soul" (charisma, standard English calls it) this way: "Cuomo is impulsive. He bristles easily. He boils over. He blurts things out," And without knowing it, the nation is now beginning to recognize that Mario Cuomo is the only White presidential contender with "soul."

His mixture of the best of both worlds and his self-described label of "progressive pragmatist" can make him the center of gravity of a badly divided Democratic Party. In 1988, Jesse Jackson is going to pull it even further to the left and Gary Hart will push it further to the right.

Moreover, if you read the polls correctly (discount Lee Iacocca's 18 percent), Cuomo is the second choice among the White candidates, closing the gap on Gary Hart. Jesse Jackson's third place ranking is inconsequential (the Black vote notwithstanding) since a White male will win the Democratic Party nomination and get the Black vote in the November general election without lifting a finger.

Furthermore, almost as many voters (38 percent) have an unfavorable evaluation of Jackson as those who see him favorably (47 percent). Hart is 67-14 and Cuomo is 64-20.

Ironically, Cuomo's success presents a rare opportunity for the Republicans — if they play their "race card."

Coomo was forced to select a running mate for lieutenant governor in his upcoming gubernatorial bid against a relative unknown, Republican Andrew O'Rourke. It took on unusual importance because if Cuomo is elected president, the lieutenant governor would automatically succeed him.

New York's Black politicians wanted Cuomo's running mate to be Black, for obvious and opportunistic reasons. Cuomo instead picked a White man from the non-urban region of the state, a man who emphasizes "argiculture and economic development." Most of the others considered were also from the "upstate" (that's how you say White in New York) region.

The Republican Party, if it were not just as racist, would nominate Roy Innis, a Black neo-conservative civil rights leader, to run for lieutenant governor on O'Rourke's ticket. He's perfect ideologically as a Republican and, in this race, couldn't possibly hurt the party's already scant chances. He may even add a vote or two.

The Republicans could legitimately seize the civil rights issue by nominating a Black when a liberal Democrat, put in office by the Black voter margin, refused to do so. Cuomo will be re-elected governor no matter what the Republicans do, but they could hurt the, perhaps, Democratic frontrunner later with this issue when he campaigns for president.

Republicans won't play this "race card" (although its a good strategy) because they are too racist, just as the New York Democrats are who use Blacks to become governor, but refuse to repay them when the time comes.

So much for two-party racism.

Freedom and social justice

By Alexander R. Jones

Sweeping aside controversial testimony from a psychiatrist and a psychologist, the First District Court of Appeals in San Francisco, CA dismissed a suit brought against the Unification Church by two former, disgruntled members.

Citing the First Amendment guarantee of Freedom of Religion, the Court ruled that it is "constitutionally forbidden" to force the Unification Church to prove the authenticity of its religious teachings before a judge and jury.

The judges also pointed to the lack of specifics in the testimonies of psychologist Margaret Singer, and psychiatrist Samual Benson and thus refused to allow their opinions to be used in the case.

Dr. Isaac Brooks, a black D.C. minister who heads up the National Task Force for Religious Freedom, Legislation and Litigation, called the ruling "excellent". He said the action "should have far-reaching results for similar cases around the nation."

The decision, handed down on April 1, also gave permission to the Unification Church to pursue its own suit against two men allegedly involved in kidnappings and subsequent mental torture designed to force Church adherents to relinquish their faith.

Clergy malpractice suits and suits brought by dissident members of both new and established churches have been on an alarming rise in recent years. These suits have caused many ministers to be afraid to even counsel their parishioners.

They have also disrupted countless religious projects and activities. This decision is a landmark of sanity and hopefully will give new hope an i impetus to religious freedom efforts around the country.

According to Dr. Brooks, "This decision has set a precedent in disallowing psychologists and psychiatrists to give court-room evaluations on the actions, behavior and decisions of spiritually oriented people in a religious context. This type of decision has been long overdue."

Alexander R. Jones is the Director of Minority and Third World Affairs for the Church of Scientology International.

—AFRO SURVEY—

Your feelings about the Sachs-Mitchell ticket?



Calvin Street



Mary Lee



Elyn Garrett



Rahchieda Akeem

This week the question to the man and woman on th street is, "What are your feelings about the Sachs-Mitchell ticket?"

Calvin Street, state employee, 35, "I think it will be a plus for Steve Sachs. I think with Mitchell on the ticket, he might add to Sachs getting a lot of black votes. As lieutenant govenor, I think Parren Mitchell wil lbe a good lobbyist for the state of Maryland, getting state and federal funds.

Mary Lee, retail salesperson, 24, "I think Parren Mitchell should run, because he did such a good job for the district. As far as running with Sachs, I think Parren would get Sachs a lot of black votes. I am not too familiar with Sachs but I don't think Schaefer will make a good governor."

Elyn Garrett, entertainment assistant, 23, "I'd like for the Sachs-Mitchell ticket to be a success but I'm concerned that Mitchell may not be able to pull the votes outside of Baltimore that the ticket will need."

Rohchieda Akeem, post office clerk, 21, "I would like to see Parren remain in the 7th district because he's been in that seat for so long. I feel that if he became lieutenant-governor he would no longer be for the people but only for himself. I feel that Steve Sachs is more Republican than Democrat."

Denise Brown, secretary, 30, "I would like to see Parren run for lieutenant governor, along side of Steve Sachs. I think they would make a good team. I think with Parren Mitchell on Sachs' side, Sachs will have more black votes."

Mark Strand, student, 25, "I feel that it is racially motivated. Sachs' picking of Parren Mitchell was not in the best interest of blacks. I also feel that Parren will not sit sitll in a position that has no true meaning."

Shawn Brown, clerk typist, 20, "I like Parren running for lieutenant governor but I don't like Steve Sachs because it seems he's trying to put Jeffrey Levitt back in business. I think Parren Mitchell would be a good lieutenant governor. I think with a higher position he will be able to do more."

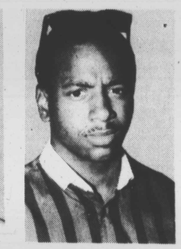
Angela Alexander, secretary, 19, "I think Parren Mitchell will help Steve Sachs get more black votes.



Deneise Brown



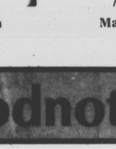
Mark Strand



Shawn Brown



Angela Alexander



R. B. Jones

Bloodnotes

Run, Parren, Run

It is time for the sheep to be separated from the goats. It is time for the BUSes to get rolling or be exposed as the self-seeking, grasping frauds they probably are. There had better be standing room only on the BUS buses because a roadblock has been put on their highway namely Parren J. Mitchell.

When Steven Sachs and Parren J. Mitchell raised their hands in a show of unity Monday morning all bets were cancelled and a serious reevaluation of the governor's race was made.

Parren's entrance into the race gives the BUSers (Blacks United for Schaefer) to choices; support King Willie Don I whose record in supporting the aspirations of the masses of black people is microscopic and be branded a sellout or support the preeminent black politician in the state whose efforts in behalf of black people and small business have been exemplary.

Some have insisted that Parren is too militant and confrontational and that the best way to get along with white folks these days is to knuckle under. It is ironic that supporters of the king will talk about confrontational styles when their leader has a legendary temper which runs nearly unchecked.

Of course in America it is perfectly acceptable for a white person to be confrontational. They are applauded as assertive and forceful. When someone who looks like Parren Mitchell does it, it is considered militant and polarizing. Blacks who speak out are considered the same way that outspoken blacks were in times past, uppity creatures who need to be taught to stay in their place.

In antebellum days they used to whip such blacks, tattoo them or mutilate them. Nowadays they get white and black lackeys to brand them with the title of racist. Now the cry is that Parren Mitchell will inject race into the election.

All the historical references that I have read indicate that race became an issue in American life in the 1600s. That was when laws based on race were introduced into this country. That was when slavery was based on skin color. And that was the time when race became an issue in American elections.

In Maryland, Parren Mitchell did not introduce race into the 1986 gubernatorial race. That was done by the Republican Party which did not want Aris Allen to make a bid for the governor's seat. He was all right for Lieutenant-Governor in 1978 but not for the top spot in 1986.

The GOP thought a recently converted, reluctant Republican was better than a man like Allen who dedicated his life to the party. Parren Mitchell will not make race the issue in this election. A group of racists and their black lackeys will.

Parr5en Mitchell comes from the civil rights tradition that stresses integration. He has worked all his life to bring the races together on equal terms. By standing up for black people one is always branded a racist.

Other opponents of Parren's decision will say that he is degrading himself and going backward politically. What Parren is doing is changing career late in life. He is seeking a new path to serve. The more obvious question is what are King Willie Don's motives for running.

One could surmise that he is afraid of facing a popular black challenger in 1987 who just might have attended the second and third most prestigious colleges in the country (Harvard and Yale, Princeton is No. 1.)

Others could say that the king is trying to get out from under municipal government before the loss of federal dollars makes the illusion of the Schaefer genius apparent.

If it is open season for people to question Parren's integrity then it should be open season on King Willie Don I's integrity. When it comes down to a comparison between the two I'll take Parren anytime.

He has been a fighter for all the dispossessed and downtrodden people in this society. His critics for the most part have been people who have wanted to maintain the present system of exploitation and inequality.

What have the BUSes or their lord and master King Willie Don I done for anyone beside themselves and the developers and big corporations that get far more tax breaks than the average citizen of this city will ever see?

The selection of Parren by Steve Sachs is the personification of the theme "One Maryland." I do not necessarily agree with Sachs on all the issues nor do I believe that more than temporary reform can be won through electoral politics, but the Sachs/Mitchell ticket offers a more democratic choice than the King and whoever runs with him.

The king already acts as though the democratic process of debate is beneath his contempt; can his regard for the citizens be much higher. He has shown that he will not offer visions of a future but merely business as usual with the rich getting richer and the poor being forgotten.

Aside from turning the Inner Harbor into a tourist trap of the first order what can the BUSes show black people that the yaunted king has done? As the schools collapse in ruins; as the police-community relationship deteriorates; as the economic polarization progresses; as the housing stock decays; as the quality of life declines, what can the Blacks United for Schaefer say in response that is not purely personal gain?

A multitude of forces are gathering to attack the Mitchell selection as a divisive moye on the part of Sachs. These forces don't want Sachs because he is too independent in their estimation. They don't want Parren because he is too militant and confrontational.

In essence what they mean is that these two men are not for sale to them and that is where the danger lies. Sachs and Mitchell have a tough fight ahead, but both men seem to thrive on that kind of adversity.

King Willie Don I on the other hand does not respond well to the kind of pressure that this ticket can generate. Already some of his bold on Baltimore City's electorate is broken.

The prospect of a hot Summer campaign against Sachs and Mitchell must cause a great deal of unease in the royal bedchamber and in the dwelling places of the BUSes.

Then again, do they deserve to sleep well?

JUN 1986