

# Clarence Mitchell dies at 73

Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr., a national civil rights leader and patriarch of the black family most prominent in Baltimore and Maryland politics, died of an apparent heart attack last night at Maryland General Hospital. He was 73.

He directed the Washington office of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for nearly three decades, advised presidents on civil rights and became known as "the 101st senator."

Mr. Mitchell was the father of a state senator and a city councilman, and the brother of a U.S. representative. His wife, Juanita Jackson Mitchell, has also been active in civil rights causes.

Mr. Mitchell made his first appearance in Washington in 1933, to testify about witnessing the lynching of a black man on the Eastern Shore. He held posts in the Roosevelt and Truman administrations before being named head of the NAACP Washington office in 1950, becoming in effect the lobbyist for the civil rights organization.

During his 30 years in that post, the federal government took actions to prohibit discrimination in education, housing, employment, voting and public accommodations — bringing closer the NAACP's goal of racial equality in the United States.

Mr. Mitchell himself was the older brother of Representative Parren J. Mitchell (D, Md., 7th), and the father of state Delegate Clarence M. Mitchell III (D, Baltimore) and City Councilman Michael B. Mitchell (D, 4th).