

Biographical Sketch
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Professor Watson is a historical documentary editor and member of the American Studies faculty at SUNY College at Old Westbury. He is editing a seven-volume edition of *The Papers of Clarence Mitchell Jr.*, which is composed of the civil rights lobbyist's weekly, monthly and annual reports from 1942 to 1978 under the sponsorship of SUNY College at Old Westbury with funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), and The Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation.

Four volumes of the papers have been published by Ohio University Press. They are volumes I and II, which cover his tenure as associate director of field operations at the Fair Employment Practice Committee from 1942-1946; volume III, which covers his tenure as NAACP labor secretary from 1946-1950 and his first six months as director of the NAACP Washington Bureau; and volume IV, which covers his work as a civil rights lobbyist from 1951-1954. Professor Watson is also the author of the biography, *Lion in the Lobby, Clarence Mitchell, Jr.'s Struggle for the Passage of Civil Rights Laws*, which is published by University Press of America. Professor Watson has also published scholarly and newspaper articles on Mitchell and the NAACP.

A journalist-historian, Professor Watson first met Mitchell when he joined the NAACP national public relations staff in 1971. His work there involved broad studies of the organization's history under the tutelage of Mitchell, Roy Wilkins, executive director, Gloster B. Current, director of branches and field administration, Henry Lee Moon, director of public relations (*Balance of Power, The Negro Vote*), and others at the NAACP national level. From 1982 to 1985, Professor Watson was national director of public relations for the NAACP.

Under a scholarship from the Inter American Press Association, he spent a year in Chile studying and working as a stringer for the *Miami Herald*. He also traveled extensively throughout South America. He worked at *The Hartford Courant*, United Press International in New York City, the *Washington Star*, and *Time Magazine*, where he was a writer. As an editorial writer at the *Baltimore Sun*, he specialized in civil rights, Africa, Latin America, southern Asia and the Far East.