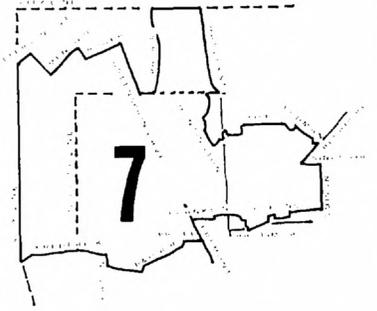




# NEWS FROM

**CONGRESSMAN  
PARREN J. MITCHELL**

7th Congressional District, Maryland



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MITCHELL STATEMENT ON MINORITY BUSINESS  
IN SOUTH AFRICA**

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"UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL I SUPPORT ANY TYPE OF BUSINESS, MINORITY OR NON-MINORITY, DEALINGS WITH SOUTH AFRICA," CONGRESSMAN PARREN J. MITCHELL (D-7TH-MD.) STATED TODAY IN WASHINGTON, D. C.

IT WAS RECENTLY REPORTED THAT A WHITE-OWNED COMPANY IN SOUTH AFRICA MAY TEAM WITH A BLACK-OWNED UNITED STATES FIRM TO SEEK A FEDERAL CONTRACT TO MANUFACTURE 1.2 MILLION CONCRETE RAIL TIES FOR USE IN A \$1.7 BILLION PROJECT TO UPGRADE TRACKS IN THE NORTHWEST CORRIDOR FROM BOSTON TO WASHINGTON AND THAT MR. MITCHELL FAVORED SUCH A CONTRACT.

MR. MITCHELL, CHAIRMAN OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ESCALATE ITS COMMITMENT TO MINORITIES IN BUSINESS, BUT FURTHER STATED, "WHILE I WILL CONTINUE TO FIGHT AT HOME AND ABROAD FOR MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE, IT IS NOT TRUE THAT EITHER I OR THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS SUPPORT A BUSINESS CONTRACT BETWEEN A BLACK OWNED U.S. COMPANY AND A WHITE-OWNED SOUTH AFRICAN COMPANY."

CONGRESSMAN MITCHELL MADE THESE FACTS KNOWN TODAY BEFORE AN OVERFLOWING AUDIENCE AS HE PARTICIPATED IN A DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PROGRAM IN WASHINGTON TO PROMOTE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

HE STRONGLY CONDEMNED THE IMPLICATIONS OF SUCH A REPORT.

"IT IS UTTERLY ABSURD FOR SOMEONE TO SAY THAT I WOULD ENCOURAGE ECONOMIC SUPPORT OF A COUNTRY THAT CONTINUES TO SUPPRESS THE CIVIL, POLITICAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE MAJORITY OF ITS CITIZENS. THE IDEA OF FREEDOM IS UNKNOWN TO THE BLACK CITIZENS OF THAT RACIST COUNTRY AND IT IS DUE, IN PART, TO THE ECONOMIC SUPPORT THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT RECEIVES FROM OUR GOVERNMENT AND SOME AMERICAN COMPANIES. FOR THIS REASON, I HAVE SUPPORTED AND CONTINUE TO SUPPORT EFFORTS TO DENY THE FOREIGN TAX CREDITS FOR TAXES PAID SOUTH AFRICA AND THE IMPOSITION OF ADDITIONAL ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST THAT COUNTRY," THE CONGRESSMAN CONTINUED.

IN HIS STATEMENT MADE ON THE FLOOR OF THE U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TODAY, MR. MITCHELL SAID: "I BELIEVE THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA TO BE ILLEGITIMATE; I BELIEVE THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA TO BE RACIST; AND I BELIEVE THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA TO BE CAPABLE OF MURDERING BLACKS, WITNESS THE DEATH OF STEVE BIKO. FOR THESE REASONS, I HAVE NOT IN THE PAST, DO NOT AT PRESENT, NOR SHALL I EVER IN THE FUTURE SUPPORT ANY BUSINESS, MINORITY OR NON-MINORITY, WHICH IS LINKED TO THAT RACIST GOVERNMENT."

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