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FROM:

THE HONORABLE PARREN J. MITCHELL  
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In a speech before the Ohio Association of Real Estate Brokers in Cleveland, Ohio, Congressman Parren J. Mitchell (D-7th-Md.) renewed his call for the impeachment of President Nixon, and urged voter pressure for action on impeachment.

"My position on this issue is abundantly clear. I have believed and still believe that the President of the United States is guilty of high crimes and misdemeanors. His guilt requires that the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives should report articles of impeachment to the U. S. House of Representatives with all deliberate speed." Mitchell said.

He argued for citizens to act by saying: "I further believe that the U. S. House of Representatives should vote for the articles of impeachment and send the matter to the United States Senate for trial. If the Judiciary Committee fails in what I believe to be its responsibility, and if the House of Representatives fails in its duty, then the people of the nation should vote overwhelmingly to oust from office those Members of Congress who did not meet their duty. In the minds of some these are harsh words but the tension that traumatizes the nation must be resolved now, or else critical, grave damage will be done to the body politic."

Scoring the administration for its anti-Black and anti-poor posture, Mitchell cited the Administration Housing Bill as being cruel to the poor and rewarding political subdivisions for practicing racism and segregation in housing.

Mitchell also criticized the Department of Housing and Urban Development, pointing out that Black contractors are but tokenly involved in H.U.D.'s Rehabilitation programs, and that management contracts have been given to those interests which "consistently and ferociously" fought against equal access in housing.

Addressing himself to the plight of Black Real Estate Brokers, Mitchell argued: "Despite the doctored statistics recently released by the Department of Labor, Black unemployment rates remain dangerously high, averaging twice the national average. While others may debate whether or not the nation is in an economic recession, you and I know that Black people have fallen through the recession into the first stages of an economic depression. You and I know what the true picture is. Is it not reflected in the diminished volume of business you handle?"

"Ever soaring inflation is adversely affecting your business. People are withdrawing their money from Savings and Loans Associations, which have historically served as your primary source for mortgage money. Tight money has reduced the activity of mortgage banks, and when this is coupled with the persisting refusal to make mortgage money available in the inner city there is no way your businesses cannot help but hurt and hurt seriously."

The Black Congressman from Maryland urged the Association to push for the enactment of legislation which would liberalize F.H.A. down payment requirements, and liberalize the lending powers of Savings and Loans Associations. He also pleaded for the Association's support for a decent Housing Bill which would continue Public Housing Programs.

The legislator was not optimistic about the immediate future. In concluding this remarks, Mitchell said, "Even if you follow through on the suggestions I have made, even if the Congress does enact the legislation that I spoke to, even if the President is impeached, I fear that the horror and pain and trauma associated with the present crisis in the Executive Branch will leave in existence for the next three to five years a climate which will not be responsive to or accepting of further significant social, economic or political gains for Black citizens."