
Interview: Sen. Theo Walker Mitchell



'The malthusian syndrome has caused a world of pain'

Former state Sen. Theo Walker Mitchell was born and reared in Greenville, South Carolina. He came through the state's educational system under the "separate but equal" doctrine. Mitchell holds a bachelor's degree from Fisk University in biology and chemistry, graduate study credit from Howard University in cytology, and a juris doctor degree from Howard University Law School (1969). He is married and has three daughters and four grandchildren.

After law school, Mitchell went to work for Legal Services for Greenville County for two years, before going into private practice. He has practiced law on behalf of the underdog throughout his life, cooperating with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) to represent people of diverse backgrounds, even including members of the Ku Klux Klan.

Mitchell first ran for the South Carolina House of Representatives in 1972, and won the Democratic nomination but lost the general election. He ran again and won in 1974, serving ten years before being elected in 1984 to the South Carolina Senate, where he also served ten years. He ran for governor in 1989-90, becoming the first black person to win a statewide election, the Democratic primary. He was chairman of the Senate Committee on Corrections and Penology and the first African-American to serve as chairman of a Senate committee since 1870. There hasn't been another since.

Mitchell was expelled from the Senate on Jan. 17, 1995, after a brutal witchhunt, intended to stop his political career, resulted in his incarceration for 90 days in federal prison. Mitchell was blackmailed into pleading guilty to the misdemeanor of failing to file IRS Form 8300, for not reporting monies expended by a client in excess of \$10,000, under threat of federal prosecution for at least 14 felony counts. Mitchell testified about his case before an independent body of elected officials investigating corruption in the Department of Justice, which conducted hearings over Aug. 31-Sept. 1, 1995. (His testimony was reported in *EIR*, Oct. 6, 1995. Videotapes of the proceedings, including a summary of the hearings, testimony on the LaRouche case, the FBI targeting African-American elected officials, the Demjanjuk case, and the Waldheim case, all referred to below, are available from the Schiller Institute.)

Senator Mitchell was interviewed on Jan. 18 by Mariana Wertz.

EIR: At the 19th Annual Legislative Conference of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL), at Birmingham, Alabama last December, you motivated an investigation of misconduct by the U.S. Department of Justice by that body. Can you tell us about that?

Mitchell: I was one of the founding members of the NBCSL and had attended all of its annual meetings. In fact, I served as chairman of Region V, North and South Carolina, from its inception. I was on the NBCSL Executive Committee for many years and participated openly and actively with it. I was invited down by my colleague, chairman of the Task Force on Ethics, Sen. McKinley Washington of Charleston, who in concert with Senator Harper from Tennessee co-chaired the workshop on ethics. They felt that I would be able to speak to the problem befalling the African-American through singling out, without probable cause, of African-American politicians who are on the move, or endeavor to be on the move. I accepted the speaking engagement and, along with others, participated in that forum. That is when I had the occasion to give out the information that I had on Operation Fruehmenschen [German for "primitive man," the FBI's ongoing targeting of African-American elected officials].

The inquiry was into what we can do, how can we go about assisting? I helped get the mode in place to have a resolution drawn and passed, calling on people in responsible positions—certainly the Congress of the United States, which has oversight of this area and others; members of the Congressional Black Caucus. I brought them back to [California Democrat] Congressman Merv Dymally's presentation on the House floor in 1988, where all the information, including affidavits of FBI agents on Operation Fruehmenschen, was read into the *Congressional Record*, but nothing was ever done.

As you can imagine, there have been many more African-American casualties, people who have suffered because the Congress has failed to do anything with the FBI and Operation Fruehmenschen, and also with the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations [OSI], which has certainly,

in bad faith, in corrupt and mean-spirited bigotry and racism and classism, destroyed whatever concepts the Constitution of the United States holds so dear.

EIR: The final NBCSL resolution also discusses the case of Lyndon LaRouche, citing his railroad trial and conviction as “the largest-scale single case, involving the same corrupt Department of Justice apparatus that operated in the OSI and ‘Operation Fruehmenschen’ cases.” You were among the first in the nation to call attention to the injustice in LaRouche’s case.

Mitchell: I am very proud to have been the first person holding public office to step up and step out on behalf of Mr. LaRouche. Others had endorsed his concepts and called for exoneration. We called for his release; I go back quite a ways with trying to get attention for Lyndon LaRouche.

If ever there has been a man who has been, what I call run over by a Sherman tank, Lyndon LaRouche has. But this man is a stalwart. He is a guiding light to those of us who know that you can’t get anywhere without suffering pain. So, early on I learned more about Lyndon LaRouche—what he stands for and what he suffered and how he has suffered, and the denial of his wife and those who love him, and about his organization, the publications; about how he kept his head high for five years in prison, how he’s keeping it high now, still speaking out, speaking the truth; how he’s bringing knowledge to people who had no knowledge.

I think it was one of the most effective things that has ever happened. They don’t realize what they did, because Lyndon LaRouche now is much more notorious—and I say this positively—than he was when he was out, before he went to prison.

EIR: He’s almost a folk hero now.

Mitchell: That’s right. He’s a *hero*. Like he told me, when I had lunch with him, before I went to prison: I had been one of the members of the independent panel that examined information in regards to his case, along with Ramsey Clark, former Congressman Jim Mann, and others, and I had not even been sentenced. I had already entered a plea, under plea-bargaining: I should have gotten probation, but I went back and got sentenced; I got 90 days active time. I remember him looking at me and saying, “What is it that you think is going to come out of your sentence?” I said, “Possibly probation, but I might even have to go to prison.” He looked at me, and he said, “If you can stay out of prison, don’t go.” I’ll never forget it. He showed his sensitivity there.

But I did go. It was an education, it was an experience, it was an eye-opener. It was an enlightenment.

EIR: After the Birmingham meeting you flew directly to Eltville, Germany, for the Schiller Institute’s international meeting there.

Mitchell: I think it was one of the finest conferences that

has been held in modern times. There were people from 36 nations, including members of parliament. In fact, after I spoke, members of parliament of Russia and Ukraine wanted pictures with me. Presenters included the former vice-premier of the former Czechoslovakia, Dr. [Josef] Mikloško. Also Judge Carlo Palermo of Milan, Italy, who had pulled the door closed on the mafiosi. There were people from Bosnia-Herzegovina, from Hungary. They had translations into four languages: German, Italian, Spanish, and French. I believe a lot of world leadership will emerge from many of those people. I think it was one of the greatest things the institute has done.

This is the second time I’ve had the pleasure of addressing a human rights conference of the European community, and this one, at a time that is so critical in the development of what I call the Western world, gave the exposure to what should be overtures for peace through the economic programs that Lyndon LaRouche has projected. [See *EIR*, Jan. 1, 1996, for the text of LaRouche’s address to the conference.]

But there are people of the oligarchy that do not want it, will not accept it, and will resist it till hell freezes over. And that is what is so bad, including the Windsor family, as we know.

The humaneness issue is something that we continue to look at, but the malthusian principles—I call it the malthusian syndrome—is still pervasive, unfortunately, in the Anglo-American connection; where the colored peoples and underdeveloped nations will continue suffering disproportionately, and losing millions of their population, especially of their children, from diseases that I believe have been manufactured, many of them, by the West, by England and the United States, by starvation, by the cutoff of foodstuffs, by the denial of medical attention and facilities that can help alleviate many of these conditions, including smallpox and things that we take for granted: unfair and unrealistic conditions, contaminated water, not providing enough heat, deliberately trying to control the number of births of the peoples of color. The malthusian principle is alive and well, not just in England, but the Anglo-American connection: Certainly the Kissinger doctrine, NSSM-200, that memorandum has certainly caused a world of pain and suffering. And there is indifference from the people in power, especially in the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, keeping these nations of Asia, South America, Ibero-America, and Africa in abject poverty and confusion and strife and civil war, where they can never sit down and have a resolution of their problems.

We discussed a lot of these things, and the world’s problems are getting worse: It is something that the oligarchy is quite satisfied in knowing that there will be outbreaks of violence, civil strife which will lead to civil war, such as in Bosnia-Herzegovina. People whom I met in 1991, from Kosova and former Yugoslavia: Many of them are dead now.



Senator Mitchell (third from left) with parliamentarians and other political figures from Ukraine and Russia, at the Schiller Institute's conference in Eltville, Germany, December 1995. From left: Dr. Vasili Stolyarov, Gabrielle Chaitkin (Schiller Institute U.S.A. and Germany), Sen. Theo Mitchell, Dr. Natalya Vitrenko, Dr. Taras Muranivsky, Anatoly Voznitsa, Vladimir Marchenko.

I told them about Operation Fruehmenschen and the Office of Special Investigations of the Department of Justice and the corrupt system in place. I told them about the persecution of Lyndon LaRouche. I mentioned to them about John Demjanjuk, the man who went to Israel with a noose around his neck, put there by the Office of Special Investigations. And of course, about [former Austrian President] Dr. Kurt Waldheim, whom I had the pleasure of meeting in Vienna. We had a long discussion. Here is a man whom the United Nations had as secretary general for so many years and who enforced resolutions. He told me, there were about three countries that caused him problems, that wanted to be exempted from having resolutions by the United Nations enforced while he was U.N. secretary general. And by virtue of his going forward and enforcing these resolutions, they came after him when he ran for the Presidency of Austria, tried to destroy him, smear him, besmirch his name.

EIR: This came out in testimony at the September hearings here.

Mitchell: That's correct. Dr. Hans Koechler of the International Progress Organization represented Dr. Waldheim. He was also there at the Eltville meeting. The Waldheim case just shows the corruption, the bigotry, the prejudice, the abuse of power, the arrogance, the Aryan concepts.

That's what Operation Fruehmenschen means: that no black person, no matter what you do, where you are or what you are, will ever get to a point of responsibility or influence in the United States. That means they're going to cut us off from going to the Senate and certainly to the Presidency

and many of the mayors' chairs, governors' offices—arbitrarily and capriciously—out of bigotry and racism and hatred, which is what J. Edgar Hoover put in place, in 1969 with then-President Richard Milhous Nixon.

After the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Voting Rights Act of 1965 came into place, blacks were running for office in various places throughout the United States, especially in the South. The numbers of black elected officials were multiplying, and we were actually impacting on the legislation and laws of various states, and had gotten some seats in Congress and were making an impact as far as national politics was concerned. Then this man met with Nixon, to bring to a screeching halt the advance of the African-American politician in America, setting in motion Operation Fruehmenschen—"primitive man."

EIR: And also the assassination of Martin Luther King.

Mitchell: Yes, the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; no doubt about that. In my speech, I called for the files on Dr. King to be opened up, to open up the files on John Fitzgerald Kennedy. We need to have the files opened on Malcolm X, we need to have the FBI and Justice Department open the files on Operation Fruehmenschen. We need to have them open the files on Lyndon LaRouche, the most classical case of federal misconduct in the history of this nation—the most classical example of the abuse of power. They shredded the Constitution of the United States when they came down on him. Because of his outspoken advocacy for human rights and dignity as an alternative to economic chaos, his alternatives to bring about an economic revival

in this country and in many countries that are considered Third World countries, he was put on the altar, he was sacrificed.

I certainly think it was the biggest mistake they ever made, because he's influencing more people now than before he went to prison. I know that I am—the best thing that ever happened to me. I wouldn't have wanted to run with that ball when they told me, but at least people know that I know what I'm talking about. I know that Lyn knows what he's talking about.

EIR: That you've taken the cup of Gethsemane.

Mitchell: And I've drunk deeply. I think, without a doubt, I have always been an advocate of human dignity and human rights. I have personally always upheld law and order and called for justice: But I saw so many black people in prison— young blacks—people who have no hope, no aspirations, no vision, no dream, many of them are crushed, most of them have no aspirations, because they know it isn't going to be fair. There are many who are hostile.

Putting a person in prison to break a person's spirit, it's not going to do it. It revitalized mine. I believe in God. I learned more about the Bible, more about the teaching of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, by virtue of being concentrated in a place at a moment in time that God gave me. I didn't have time to learn more about Him while I was out here, doing what I was doing. I went to Bible study three days a week. I learned more about the Bible in 88 days [in prison] than I did in 45 years.

EIR: Let me ask you about the future: On Jan. 15, Martin Luther King Day, Lyndon LaRouche addressed an audience in Washington, and he said that it will take a "movement of people whose skin color is slightly darker than Newt Gingrich's" to save this country. Can you comment on that?

Mitchell: Of course. We've often wondered why God allowed the African-American to come to America the way that we came, in chains, against our will. But, we have to think back that, Africans were the only ones who never did line up and seek passports to come to America. I understand we were content over there in Africa.

You have to remember the history. Lyn knows the history of the Africans and the people of the African continent—they're the original man. The Operation Fruehmenschen—primitive man—is true! We are primitive man, we are early man. As I told an audience this past week, we are the original man. It has been shown that everything came out of Africa that is civilized. People created and governed dynasties, empires that were so vast that they went from the Euphrates all the way throughout the lower part of Africa. Writing, medicine, music, the arts, science, literature: Scholars in Europe came to Africa to learn.

So now that we are in America, Lyn understands, we're not going anyplace. That's why I feel a lot of our young

black men are so frustrated, because there is an innateness of creativity within us: This is God-given.

EIR: It's God-given to all people. I'd also like your comment on how a movement to defeat the Gingrichite Congress can be realized in time for the November elections.

Mitchell: The key is coalition-building. It is going to take people forming alliances, calling truces among the divergent factions. It is going to take tearing down fences and building the bridges to each other, so that blacks and whites and others will be able to join the hand that Dr. King talked about, and be able to work together to attack the beast that is destroying the world and emanating from America and England. The whites can't do it alone; the blacks can't; neither can the browns: It's going to take us all. This is something in which we all must play a role. We don't expect everybody to participate; only those of like mind, that is, for human dignity, human decency and human rights, human honor, and a fairness, as far as the future is concerned, to live a wholesome and positive and productive life for every one of God's children.

That's what life is about. Greed and arrogance and the abuse of power and evil versus that which is good, that is fair, honorable, and that believes that the world is big enough and wholesome enough to support many more of God's children in dignity.

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