

Rep. Mitchell Claims

By B. D. Colen

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The godson of Rep. Parren J. Mitchell (D-Md.) was arrested early Sunday morning in Baltimore during an incident that Mitchell said amounted to police harassment, resulting from his charges against the Inspectional Services Division of the city's police department.

Mitchell said the arrest of his godson McLeod Townes, 23, at Mitchell's house constituted "retaliation for what I'm doing on the ISD

investigation. If you can't hurt me, hurt somebody close to me. That appears to be the police tactic."

Mitchell has been one of the leading critics of the ISD, a secret police unit, which according to published accounts in Baltimore newspaper, now engaged in surveillance of black elected officials, including Mitchell, and others.

A police spokesman denied yesterday that there was any connection between the arrest of Townes and Mitchell's criticism of the police force, which has included a call for the resignation of Baltimore Police Pomerleau.

"Our position is it's not harassment," said Officer Bryan Joyce of the press office. "The officers didn't even know who the congressman was until after

(the incident). Mr. Mitchell will continue to get whatever police protection he asks for, just like any other citizen."

The incident, which began at 5:30 a.m. in front of Mitchell's home at 1805 Madison Ave., Baltimore, ended 17 hours later when Townes, who was charged with assaulting a police officer, disorderly conduct, resisting arrest, two counts of assault and four traffic charges, was released without bond.

Police said the incident began when Officer Glen Oliver, who was on routine patrol in Mitchell's neighborhood, saw a late model car parked unattended, with its motor running, in front of Mitchell's home.

According to Oliver's report, Oliver radioed in to determine if the car had been reported stolen, and left his

Harassment in Arrest of Godson

cruiser to check the car. He later noticed that the key was in the ignition, police said.

Townes came out of the house, police said, and Oliver asked Townes if the auto belonged to him. According to the report, Townes replied "Yeah," and

Oliver "then informed the suspect it was against the law to leave the vehicle unattended or with the motor running."

"Suspect stated he didn't know that and suspect stated to me, 'it's a crime a guy can't warm up his car in the morning,'" the report added.

The police said Oliver then asked to see Townes' license and registration and the suspect then stated, "what the . . . for?" and then started to walk up the steps" into Mitchell's house.

Oliver said that he followed Townes up an inside staircase into the house, and when Townes reached the second floor he turned around, kicked the officer in the shoulder and neck, and knocked him down the stairs.

Police said Oliver called for

reinforcements, and Oliver and three other officers went back into the house, and when they knocked on the second floor door a woman opened it and they told her they were looking for a man who had assaulted a police officer.

"An older man," later identified as Mitchell, "asked what was going on," and the police said they told him what had happened. Police said that one of the officers then heard a noise on the third floor, and rushed up the stairs past Mitchell and confronted Townes."

A fight ensued between Townes and the police, during which one of the officers struck Townes with a police service revolver, police said. Townes later received five stitches over his eye at a local hospital.

Review by Judges Sought by Byrd

Associated Press

Sen. Harry F. Byrd Jr. (Ind.-Va.) reintroduced a proposed constitutional amendment yesterday to make future federal judges subject to reconfirmation by the President every eight years.

Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), cosponsoring the amendment, said it would encourage "judicial restraint."



PARREN J. MITCHELL
... critical of police