

in Parliament. In view of this, Fraga allied himself publicly last week with José Maria de Areilza Count of Motrico, a former Francoist minister, and Alfonso Osorio, a renegade from the ruling party,

the Center Democratic Union (UCD). Their stated aim is to build themselves up as a "progressive right-wing option" through the formation of the "Civilized Right Party" that will launch a "cru-

sade" against Suarez and the UCD.

Fraga's new non-Francoist image may not sit well. He is famous for his old boast that "I am the only real fascist in Spain."

— R.D. Cedeno

Fraud fight hit with legal flim-flam

Detailed evidence by attorneys for Debra Hanania-Freeman requesting an injunction against the certification of the Nov. 7 election in Maryland's 7th congressional district was summarily dismissed by the Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Baltimore on Nov. 22. Judge Anselm Sodaro's refusal to hear or examine any evidence presented by the U.S. Labor Party-backed candidate, who opposed incumbent Parren Mitchell in that race, followed a series of heavy-handed and highly dubious maneuvers by the Board of Elections and the state attorney's office.

What independent candidate Debra Hanania-Freeman termed "a bizarre series of events" began Nov. 21, when Board of Elections Director David Preller, Sr. refused her campaign workers access to the voting machines then stored at a warehouse. On a previous visit to the warehouse, investigators working with the Freeman campaign had found a variety of irregularities, including machine totals that did not agree with tally sheet records, and unsealed machines. The investigators noted that the warehouse was not properly secured; many of the windows were broken, some covered only with cardboard, a situation which could lend itself to tampering with the machines.

Campaign staffers later learned that Board of Elections officials were "in a hurry to certify the election."

The next day, Nov. 22, lawyer Diana Motz of the state attorney's

office inaccurately told Judge Sodaro in court that the congressional election had already been duly certified. The judge then dismissed the arguments presented by Dr. Freeman's attorneys.

Several hours later Ms. Motz informed Freeman's office that she had been mistaken — the election was not certified, but only verified.

However, the damage had been irrevocably done; the wording of Judge Sodaro's summary dismissal precludes an appeal on that action.

Dr. Freeman, who ran a well-organized campaign to oust Parren Mitchell, charged that her constitutional rights to due process had been infringed on in a statement to the *Executive Intelligence Review*. "Even before my attorneys went to court we had indications that the Mitchell machine may try to block legal action. On Nov. 17, our motion for a temporary restraining order was turned down by two judges, even though both admitted it had merits. One openly admitted he could not sign such an order since he was close to Mitchell sympathizers, while the second judge said it was 'too late in the afternoon.'"

Behind Parren Mitchell

Freeman's campaign staffers say that Mitchell's retention of his congressional seat has depended on forces with more political clout than just the poverty apparatus with which he is directly associated. Various sources have told them that Mitchell's backing included much of what might be

termed Baltimore's Zionist lobby. In particular, they point to the refusal of the American Jewish Congress and B'nai B'rith to support then-incumbent Sam Friedel when he contested the outcome of his 1970 race against Mitchell. Many thought that Friedel had retained his seat, since returns first showed him the victor by 150 votes. But later returns showed Mitchell winning by 38 votes. It was then that Zionists dropped their support of Friedel, on the argument that if Mitchell was denied the seat he would make good the implicit threat of riots, "and Jewish blood would run through the streets."

"Mitchell's election was just one part of an operation designed to break the back of Maryland's traditional democratic machine through the introduction of various antilabor, low-wage environmental type programs," maintains one source. Mitchell's association with witchhunting attorney Steven Sachs could indeed be interpreted in that manner.

Sachs, who is Maryland's incoming Attorney General, set up the watering of former Vice-President Spiro Agnew. Sachs also went after area labor leaders, arranging the indictment of seven in 1967. The dirty character of this investigation is accurately portrayed by one incident: A chief witness in the Sachs case against Building Trades Council leader Guido Iozzi was shot to death in a duck blind by one of two of Sachs's Federal marshalls on the case posing as hunting enthusiasts.