
Press Officer Leaving At Justice Department

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Attorney General John N. Mitchell and his press officer are parting ways, the Justice Department confirmed yesterday.

Jack C. Landau, a former Washington newsman who has directed the department's information office since Mitchell took office last year, is looking for private employment.

Mitchell denied reports that Landau was being fired for failing to project a proper Nixon administration image. He issued a statement saying Landau's "service to me and the department has been exemplary. I had hoped that he would remain as long as I was Attorney General."

The statement said Landau has stayed at the department for the last few months "at my request despite his desire to return to a position in the news media" and will remain until a replacement is selected.

"I understand the appeal of

an active media role as a reporter or editor over a government information office," said Mitchell, who with other administration officials has frequently criticized the press.

Although some department officials have complained privately that their message was not getting across to the public through the department's undermanned information office, there has been no public indication that Mitchell has been dissatisfied with Landau's handling of the job.

Landau, who was a reporter for The Washington Post and the Washington bureau of the Newhouse news service before going to work for Mitchell, was regarded by some officials as far more liberal on civil rights and other matters than any other top aide to Mitchell.

He was considered to have unusually close contact with the Attorney General and to be one of his staunchest admirers.