

5/1/71 p. 6

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Dick Hallgren

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'Grave Danger'

Mitchell Assails The News Media

Dallas

Attorney General John N. Mitchell, joining the Nixon Administration attack on the news media, criticized some of the press yesterday for "shocking contempt for truth and a cheap surrender to instinct."

Mitchell was in Texas for a Law Day speech at Southern Methodist University.

He said the Nation is "inviting grave danger" because of "a sharp erosion of professionalism among many who have the public's ear."

"We find emotion and intuition in the saddle, while truth is trampled in the dust," Mitchell said.

FALSE

He attacked press handling of the so-called "no knock" provisions, of recently enacted criminal and narcotics legislation and "the widely circulated but false report that 28 Black Panthers had been killed by police."

Mitchell charged that the New York Times and the Washington Post reported as fact that police killed 28 blacks "in a National scheme by various agencies of the government."

"Not one death can be attributed to any National

scheme of genocide," Mitchell said. "The fraud has been laid bare and some publications have admitted their mistake. But this is small compensation for the sorry spectacle of supposedly responsible public figures and the press repeating the most damaging charges without finding out what the facts really were."

FREE

Mitchell's appearance on the campus was free of major incidents. The majority of students, filling the balconies of the auditorium where Mitchell spoke, listened quietly to the Attorney General.

But several times during the ceremonies about 30 students stood and lifted their right arms in a clenched fist salute and a few extended their arms toward Mitchell in the Nazi salute.

Referring to the "no-knock" provision of the District of Columbia crime bill passed by Congress, Mitchell said opponents "conjured up images of Hitler's storm troopers kicking in the doors of their trembling victims."

"Actually, the provision gives more citizen protection, not less," he said, because the decision to enter