

Martha Mitchell Complains To Walter Scott

On Sept. 10, 1972, this publication in its Personality Parade department printed the following question and answer concerning Martha Mitchell, the colorful wife of the former U.S. Attorney General:

Q: This past June when she was in Newport Beach, Calif., Martha Mitchell said a security guard threw her on the bed and gave her an injection in her fanny to quiet her down. Was the security guard who did that Steve King, in charge of security for the Committee to Reelect the President?—S. Lane, Washington, D.C.

A: It was not Steve King who injected Mrs. Martha Mitchell in the upper extremity of her thigh. It is true that King accompanied the Mitchells to California as a bodyguard, but he was not involved in the needle caper as described by Mrs. Mitchell. King is now security director for the Committee for Reelection of the President, but he was not on June 17th. In June that position was occupied by James W. McCord Jr., who was arrested with four other persons for allegedly breaking into the Watergate complex in Washington, D.C., and attempting to bug Democratic National Headquarters in a plot financed in part by Republican campaign contributions.



Martha Mitchell says that she wants to "set a few facts straight"—and does.

If in fact Mrs. Mitchell was "needled" by anyone, and she has always been a scrupulously truthful woman, it is safe to assume that she was injected by a physician or nurse qualified to do so. Steve King says he is not.

When Mrs. Mitchell read the above in her luxurious Watergate East apartment in Washington, D.C., on that Sunday morning, she grew justifiably incensed.

According to her, our reply was only partially correct and exonerated Stephen King, her former bodyguard, from what she regards as the commission of a dastardly act upon her person.

She thereupon wrote us a five-page letter which is reprinted herewith in its entirety:

September 10, 1972

Dear Mr. Scott:

After reading today's "Personality Parade," I shall come out of my self imposed retirement to set a few facts straight.

Indeed it was a Steve King that not only dealt me the most horrible experience I have ever had—but inflicted bodily harm upon me. Such as, kicking me, throwing me around, keeping me locked up in one room for more than twenty-four hours, sending my hand through a glass window, allowing no one inside the villa except the doctor whom he called—and last but not least—yanked the phone out of my bedroom while talking with Helen Thomas. He came into my room while the doors were closed and I was undressed.

From then on I saw no one—allowed no food—and literally kept a prisoner.

The doctor and all the rest of them should have been arrested or unless I'm terribly wrong in thinking that people are allowed to treat one thus—for simply a telephone call!

This doctor came in with his needle—and with the help of King threw me on the bed and injected something I turned out to be allergic to. The doctor whom I never had seen in my life spoke not one word nor explained the in-



Message from Martha: This is the five-page letter that the wife of the former Attorney General wrote to Parade's columnist Walter Scott to explain "horrible" incident.

jection. I should sue them all.

And in case you or anyone else doubt my word—and listen to the lies of the others—I might mention my eleven year old daughter witnessed the whole unbelievable scene.

This is just to set part of the record straight. I refuse to let these lies be told.

Best wishes to you.

Sincerely,
Martha Mitchell

In her relationship with PARADE, Martha Mitchell has always been scrupulously honest. PARADE in turn has tried to maintain the identical standard. Mrs. Mitchell, however, has been a most difficult woman to contact. She has been kept incommunicado for reasons known only to others. Perhaps one day she will write a book telling all. She has so threatened.

This is to inform Mrs. Mitchell that Personality Parade tried to contact her in the Beverly Hills Hotel on June 16, 17, and 18 this past summer. Her bodyguard, Steve King, a former FBI agent, and presumably a gentleman of honor and decency, promised to relay our messages. When Mrs. Mitchell and entourage moved down to the Newporter Inn at Newport Beach, Calif., Personality Parade again tried to contact her by phone even though we were told she was not registered there.

More messages

When subsequently Mrs. Mitchell flew to the Westchester Country Club in Rye, N.Y., and later presented her husband with an ultimatum to relinquish his position as President Nixon's campaign manager, Personality Parade once again left messages, beseeching Mrs. Mitchell to get word to us somehow as she had in the past.

Unable to contact Mrs. Mitchell, Personality

Parade phoned Steve King for his version of the Newporter Inn battle, and it is his version which we largely used as our reply. Mrs. Mitchell says we were taken in.

Mr. King says, "You understand I can no longer talk about the incident. All such information must come from Van Shumway or Powell Moore." Mr. Shumway, in charge of press relations for the Committee to Reelect the President, and Mr. Moore, his assistant, are masters of obfuscation, and what they were willing to say about Martha Mitchell can be stored in the eye of a needle.

Personality Parade apologizes to Martha Mitchell for its inability to ferret out the entire truth of what, why, where, and when happened to her in Southern California this past June.

We tried, Martha, but they wouldn't let us get to you. Now that you've moved to New York, maybe it will be easier. Best of all, why don't you go ahead and write your book. Suggested title: *What Politics Did to Me*.

—L.S.



Steve King says that he can "no longer talk about the incident"—and doesn't.