

Martha Mitchell Says President Lied

SAN CLEMENTE, Calif., Aug. 25 (UPI)—Martha Mitchell says she read a "campaign strategy book" written by President Nixon and H. R. Haldeman that she hinted included plans for Watergate-style operations. She said the Senate Watergate committee should call her to testify.

She said Mr. Nixon's news conference denial that her husband, former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, had told him the details of Watergate was "a damned lie."

Her husband shielded Mr. Nixon in his testimony to the Ervin committee because he hopes Mr. Nixon will pay him back with executive clemency if Mitchell is convicted of crimes, Mrs. Mitchell said in a 9 a.m. telephone call.

She said she thinks her husband is "a goddamned fool" to protect Mr. Nixon.

"I saw the leather-bound campaign strategy book for 1972 that was written by Nixon and Haldeman," she said. "It included the whole procedures of everything that has happened. I saw it with my own two eyes, when I was trying to press John not to go into the campaign."

"It was at least two inches thick," she added. "Everything was there from A to Zeta. That's why the (Ervin) committee should call me." She added it included the 1968 campaign plans and strategy for Mr. Nixon's re-election.

She declined to amplify, but said that she should be called to testify in executive session, "not on television."

"This is the reason I think the committee should hear me out," she said. She said she read part of the book. She angrily disputed Mr. Nixon's statement that Mitchell had never told him about the Watergate break-in, and that he had not asked Mitchell about it.

"For God's sake he used to call John at 2 o'clock in the morning, and said he didn't call his Attorney General? He called him every night. I've got proof from Julia (her housekeeper)."

Mrs. Mitchell watched the presidential news conference last Wednesday and was particularly irate with Mr. Nixon's statement that "throughout I would have expected Mr. Mitchell to tell me in the event that he was involved or that anybody else was. He did not tell me. I don't blame him for not telling me. He has his reasons for not telling me. I regret that he did not, because he is exactly right. Had he told me, I would have blown my stack."

Mitchell had testified that if he told Mr. Nixon he would have blown the lid.

But Mrs. Mitchell believes that her husband defended the President's innocence, "because he thinks he (Mr. Nixon) would give him (executive) clemency for what he has done for him."

Mrs. Mitchell surfaced after a nearly month-long silence to express her views.

She said she fears "John Mitchell will never get out of it."

"My husband is the only one who can control the President because the President goes out and does what he should't do," she said.

"I did not want my husband to be his campaign manager," she said. "I told him not to take it."

She indicated that there was friction between her and her husband because of "what Watergate has done to our lives. We have been suffering."

She also described Mr. Nixon as the "most egotistic person I have ever met in my life."

"He has a temper like I do. If I get mad at something."

"The President has assaulted both John and me in taking everything we had or wanted," she said.

Speaking of her husband, she said: "The President did not exonerate him. He who put Nixon in the White House. He exonerated Haldeman and (John) Ehrlichman."

3 a.m. Phone Call

By Mrs. Mitchell

NEW YORK (UPI)—Martha Mitchell tried Friday night to communicate with the Western White House on her husband's relationship with President Nixon, but she was told to "call UPI," she said.

"I'm so damned mad," Mrs. Mitchell, wife of former Attorney General John N. Mitchell told the UPI news desk in New York in a 3 a.m. telephone call. "I asked them to let me speak to the President. I wanted to tell him something. They told me, 'Tell it to UPI.'"

Mrs. Mitchell called Helen Thomas, who is in California covering the President's activities.