

# Mitchell Claims Progress In Isolating Extremists

By John P. MacKenzie  
Washington Post Staff Writer

Attorney General John N. Mitchell said yesterday that under federal leadership "we are beginning to isolate the extremists," separating out the peaceful dissenters from the "violence-prone militants who want to destroy our society."

Far from taking action to polarize disaffected blacks and students or swell the ranks of the most militant, it is becoming clearer that the administration was correct in its early calculation that "small numbers" of radicals were responsible for most of the disturbances, Mitchell said.

This development is the fruit of a year-long process of "education—federal, local, civil rights division, across the board," including statements by public officials, investigations and prosecutions, Mitchell said in an interview. He also made these points:

- Blacks have no basis for lacking "full trust" of the federal investigation into the shooting of two Black Panther leaders by Chicago police, notwithstanding FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover's denunciation of the Panthers as a major domestic threat.

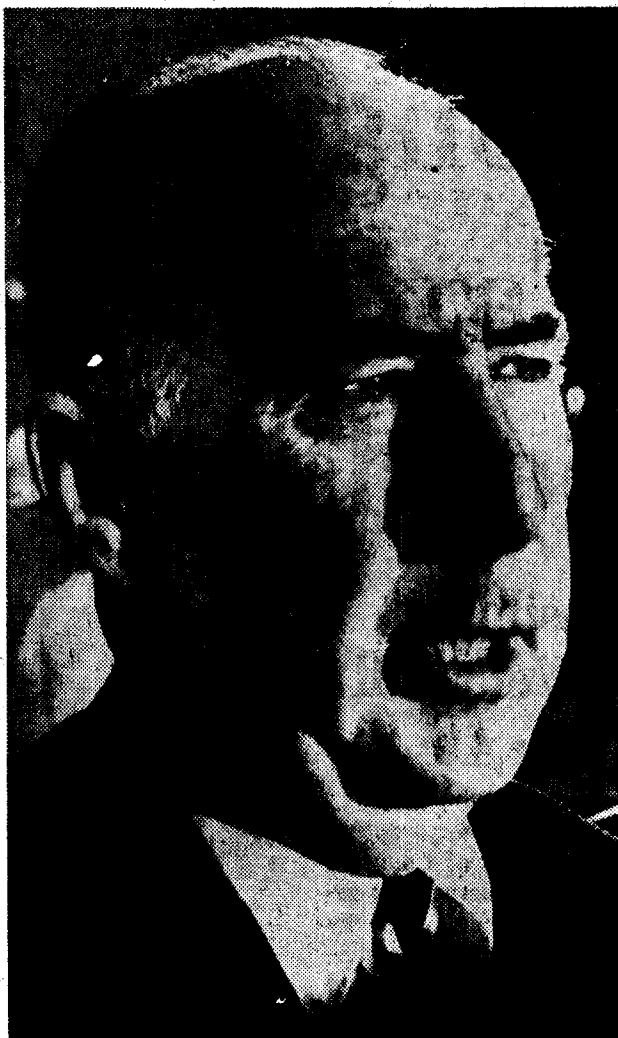
- The embattled "Philadelphia Plan" to bring more Negroes into construction jobs must be implemented or else it will be "a shallow operation" to win more rights for blacks when they lack the employment and income to enjoy them.

- Civil rights leaders are being unfair in their criticism of the administration's civil rights policies.

- He senses no reduction in his effectiveness as a close adviser to President Nixon as the result of the losing fight to confirm Clement F. Haynsworth Jr. for the Supreme Court.

## Appears Cheerful

Mitchell appeared relaxed and cheerful in his Justice Department office and expressed



By Stephen Northup—The Washington Post

Attorney General Mitchell denies Panther persecution.

amusement when asked if he felt less effective at the White House. "Why the hell should I?" he said with a smile, noting that he never sought the nation's top law enforcement post.

Asked for his views on local police actions against Black Panthers and other extremists, Mitchell repeated his denial that federal forces were acting in concert with local officials to harass anyone.

"We do not direct police forces," Mitchell said, adding

that police know that "we do investigate wrongdoings by police." A federal grand jury is looking into the Chicago shootings.

Mitchell said he knew of no federal actions that could be called "persecuting" the Panthers.

Asked about complaints that FBI agents confiscated Panther records and money while executing a fugitive warrant in Chicago, he replied that he didn't know the specifics but the FBI was meticulous

in using only the authority of court-approved warrants.

Was there not more extremism and danger of violence now than a year ago? "It's the other way around," Mitchell said, adding, "The inducement to violence is diminishing."

At first it was hard to tell who were the relatively peaceful dissenters conducting the "sitdowns" and who were the ones who marched down the street "smashing windows and committing mayhem," the Attorney General said.

He said the Weatherman faction of the Students for a Democratic Society was among the most violence-prone, but that the dissidents were now using "all sorts of names."

Mitchell said his department was pressing forcefully "as we see it" on school desegregation. Pointing to last week's decision by a federal court in Georgia, he said, "You can't say we didn't press with vigor there" in seeking and obtaining an order holding state officials responsible for statewide desegregation.

## Prefers Negotiation

Mitchell said he carried out his own policy of "negotiation rather than confrontation" over schools by meeting with Georgia's attorney general and school superintendent before the ruling and by telling senators and congressmen what the laws on desegregation.

On the subject of crime, Mitchell said the District of Columbia's rising crime rate won't be halted until Congress enacts his "preventive detention" proposal and other legislation.

Expressing satisfaction at the resignation announcement by U.S. Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau in New York, Mitchell said there were "six or seven" remaining Democratic holdovers. One of them, Stephen Sachs in Baltimore, is in the middle of a half dozen major prosecutions, he said.