

Mitchell Quotes on Campus Stupidity Are Denied as 'Distorted, Inaccurate'

Post 9/11/70
United Press International

Attorney General John N. Mitchell was quoted yesterday as saying that students, professors and "these stupid bastards who are ruining our educational institutions" are uninformed about the issues within government.

At a Women's National Press Club cocktail buffet here Wednesday night, Mitchell was also reported to have said street violence and campus unrest were the biggest political issues this year and that "this country is going so far right you are not even going to recognize it."

[A spokesman for the Attorney General said the comments attributed to him were apparently based on "fragmentary and overheard conversations" and are "distorted and highly inaccurate." The spokesman said Mitchell had not granted any interviews that night.]

Kandy Stroud, a reporter for Women's Wear Daily, said she introduced herself to Mitchell and identified herself as a reporter at the start of the conversation. She said the attorney general told her he had just come from three Republican fund-raising parties.

Praises President

"He's (President Nixon) probably the most informed President there's ever been. He reads everything and remembers it all. I really can't understand how people can call him isolated. He's aware of everything that's going on

"I'll tell you who's not informed, though. It's these stupid kids. Why, they don't know the issues. They pick the rhetoric that they want to hear right off the bottom of an issue and never finish reading to the bottom. Why, I talked to the kids from the Harvard Law School in my office and I was flabbergasted at how uninformed they are about what's going on inside government.

"And the professors are just as bad if not worse. They don't know anything. Nor do these stupid bastards who are ruining our educational institutions.

"You know, we have the finest educational system in the world and they're trying to destroy it. Well, I'll tell you what's going to happen. If they keep on, nobody is going to support any of these institutions any more and we're going to lose our precious heritage, the higher educational institutions in this country."

Major Issues

The Attorney General said a law and order candidate, George P. Mahoney, almost defeated Sen. Joseph Tydings (D-Md.) in Tuesday's Democratic primary.

"You know, violence in the streets and campus unrest are the major issues according to every poll that's been taken. And all these johnny-come-latelies like (Sen. Edward M.) Kennedy and (Sen. Birch) Bayh are all jumping on

the bandwagon. Unfortunately, there's no room for them. The wagon's already full."

On right vs. left:

"Listen, there is no such thing as the New Left. This country is going so far right you are not even going to recognize it."

On Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, President Nixon's national security affairs adviser:

"Henry's an egocentric maniac. He loves to appear in the newspapers with Jill St. John. But when he gets back to the office he's really a brilliant man. . . . He's indispensable. He's on the firing line every day."

On Republican Gov. Winthrop Rockefeller of Arkansas:

"Oh, Rockefeller could buy the whole election if he wanted to. He'll win by buying the votes of the far left or the hard right or the black vote. He has to run against (Dale) Bumpers, an unknown Democrat. . . . He could be a tough candidate to beat. . . ."

On marijuana:

"My dear, don't you realize you can take a real trip in marijuana? . . . These stupid jerks who smoke the stuff don't realize what they're getting themselves into. Now that we've stopped the flow of the milder stuff in the United States, they're going outside the country and now the pushers are importing the cannabis plant from other countries. The same kind of stuff the opium smokers use. It's hashish and you can really become addicted to it."