

# Best Wishes Post 7/4/72 From Martha

By Dorothy McCardle

As the wife of the new head of the campaign to re-elect President Nixon Mrs. Clark MacGregor felt it was protocol for her to telephone Martha Mitchell yesterday.

Mrs. Mitchell's husband, John, the former Attorney General, resigned on Saturday from the leadership of the Committee to Re-Elect the President. President Nixon then named MacGregor as Mitchell's successor.

"I am so glad that you and Clark are going to do this," Mrs. Mitchell told Barbara MacGregor. "You are the perfect couple for this job."

Mrs. Mitchell, in the brief telephone conversation, did not refer to her own reasons for forcing her own husband to give up the job. She announced to the press last week that she was leaving him until "he got out of politics." Mitchell flew to the Westchester Country Club in Rye, N.Y., where she had issued her ultimatum. After returning to Washington with her, he acceded to her request to resign.

"I did not inquire into her reasons for wanting to get John out of politics," said Mrs. MacGregor. "And she didn't volunteer any explanation, either."

"Actually, she sounded fine, but very rushed. She said, as she has been saying to me for the past several months, that she was under so many pressures. I didn't ask her what the pressures were."

Mrs. MacGregor does not anticipate that the pressures of her husband's new job will get her down. She had 10 years of political training as the wife of a member of Congress before MacGregor became counsel to President Nixon for political affairs two years ago.

"Martha Mitchell had none of this background," said Mrs. MacGregor. "She was one of the few Cabinet wives to come to Washington completely green about politics."

Mrs. MacGregor and Mrs. Mitchell became friends during the winter, when Barbara MacGregor arranged a series of lunches at the office of the then Attorney General so that wives of members of Congress could meet Martha Mitchell.

"Most of the Congressional wives wanted to meet Martha Mitchell," said Mrs. MacGregor. "They all decided she was perfectly charming."

"They told me that their constituents back home wanted to meet Martha Mitchell more than anyone else in Washington."

Mrs. MacGregor spent all day Sunday helping her husband clean out his office at the White House. Then yesterday morning, she decided to telephone Mrs. Mitchell over the MacGregor's White House telephone at their home on Foxhall Road.

At first, the White House operator reported that "Mrs. Mitchell was not at home" at the Mitchells' Watergate East apartment.

An hour or so later, the White House operator rang Mrs. MacGregor and said Mrs. Mitchell was ready to talk to her.

Others calling Mrs. Mitchell over regular telephone lines were given a special number by the Watergate operators. The number proved to be her own former office at the Committee to Re-Elect the President. No one there had heard from her.