

'What Country Can I Go To?'

By Dorothy McCardle

After a visit to the White House yesterday morning, former Attorney General John Mitchell flew to New York to talk things over with his wife, Martha.

Friends said Mitchell had gone to New York to try to get his wife to stop talking in public about what he considers "a personal matter" between them.

Mrs. Mitchell has been confiding her marital problems over the long-distance telephone to Helen Thomas of United Press International. She telephoned Miss Thomas last week from California and again on Sunday from Rye, N.Y., where the Mitchells used to live.

On her first call, the loquacious Martha said she had threatened her husband

she would leave him unless he gets out of politics.

On her Sunday call, she said she had decided to go ahead and leave him "until John decides to leave" his job as campaign manager for the re-election of President Nixon.

Associates of Mitchell at the Committee for Re-election of the President where Mitchell is ~~manager~~ said the disagreement between husband and wife "is a purely personal matter." They also report that "Mitchell has no intention of leaving the committee until after the election."

After Mrs. Mitchell's first call from California last week, Mitchell said publicly

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Associated Press, January, 1972, file photo

Martha Mitchell: "Nothing but a cops-and-robbers game." John Mitchell: "a personal matter."

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that he and his wife still love each other and that he promised her that he would return to private law practice as soon as the November presidential elections are over.

But on her Sunday call from Rye, Mrs. Mitchell told Miss Thomas that she has decided not to wait until November. She described rough treatment she had received from her armed body guard during her first call from California. She said the telephone had been taken from her by her guard and ripped from the wall.

To a New York Daily

"They threw me down on the bed—five men did it—and stuck a needle in my behind. I've never been treated like this, ever."

News reporter who went to visit Mrs. Mitchell Sunday night at the Westchester County Country Club, where she is staying, she was even more dramatic.

She was tearful and disheveled in a rumpled yellow pantsuit with her long blond hair streaming about her face and without makeup. Mrs. Mitchell told the News reporter that there had been

five guards in California who manhandled her.

"They threw me down on the bed—five men did it—and stuck a needle in my behind," she said. "I've never been treated like this, ever."

She showed the reporter two bandaged fingers which she claimed a California doctor had stitched up after her battle with her five guards. She showed the reporter bruises on her arms and said she had others on her thighs.



United Press International

John Mitchell, lobbyist Gertrude Engle and Martha Mitchell as the then-Attorney General was stopping his wife from talking about the ITT affair at a GOP dinner March 8 in Washington.

involved in politics. I doubt seriously if I want any of the current candidates in the White House."

After her second call, Mitchell had nothing to say publicly about his wife. But he is reported to have talked things over at the White House with the President yesterday morning and then left immediately to talk to his wife in Rye.

His associates at the Committee to Re-elect the President denied Mrs. Mitchell's charges of being roughed up by five guards.

"She has only one guard, the same man who goes with her husband and herself every place they travel because of the many threats against their lives," said one source.

"Everyone knows that Mrs. Mitchell has her private personal problems. These are something that only her husband can solve, said another associate.

"She can be perfectly charming and then at other times—especially at night—she is not herself. Nobody beat her up, and it's just not true that she ever had five guards."

At one point in the interview, the News reporter said that Mrs. Mitchell exclaimed: "I was a patriot until I got assassinated. What country can I go to?"

Mrs. Mitchell did not specify what evil she finds in politics beyond saying:

"This is nothing but a cops-and-robbers game, and I'm trying to get my husband out of it. There is no reason for my husband to be

One of the gremlins threatening to sabotage any public speaker sabotaged Sen. Edward M. Kennedy yesterday in New York.

The occasion was the announcement of a sporting event to benefit the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Foundation, and the audience got a laugh out of the professional-celebrity "tournis tennisment" Kennedy announced.

He noted that the way the day seemed to be going, he'd better hurry to the capital "to rescue Martha Mitchell."