

Mitchell Seen Escaping New Charges

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The Watergate special prosecutor's office has decided not to bring charges against former Attorney General John N. Mitchell for his role in the ITT case, it was learned yesterday.

Two years ago, Mitchell told the Senate Judiciary Committee he had never discussed the International Telephone and Telegraph Co. antitrust case with President Nixon.

"The President has never talked to me about any anti-trust case that was in the department . . . But specifically, with respect to ITT or any other litigation, no, I have never talked to the President about it," Mitchell said.

It later was learned that Mitchell had discussed the case with Nixon and had persuaded Nixon to allow the Justice Department to appeal a court ruling dismissing a government antitrust suit against the giant conglomerate.

The sources familiar with the case said the decision not to pursue the matter appeared to be based on two factors: Mitchell's conviction in the Watergate cover-up and that his discussion with Nixon about ITT resulted in talking Nixon out of blocking the appeal.