

Mardian, Mitchell

testimony conflicts

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WASHINGTON (AP) — Robert C. Mardian testified Monday that cover-up codefendant John N. Mitchell acknowledged approving funds for the Watergate break-in one week after the burglars were arrested.

It marked the second time that Mardian's testimony conflicted with testimony given by the former attorney general.

Mardian, appearing on his own behalf, also insisted that he took no part in the cover-up, asserting, "I conceived my role as that of any lawyer."

The former assistant attorney general said he was assigned by Mitchell to handle Watergate matters for the 1972 Nixon re-election committee.

Mitchell testified that not until later in the day, after attempts had been made to get the original burglars out of jail, did he learn of the break-in.