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Mitchell Bjt

Martha Mitchell Bjt NL precede Little Rock day 420

By BROOKS JACKSON

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WASHINGTON AP - Atty. Gen. John N. Mitchell's outspoken wife Martha asked the Arkansas Gazette Thursday to "crucify" Sen. J.W. Fulbright for his vote against confirmation of Judge G. Harrold Carswell to the U.S. Supreme Court, the newspaper reported.

Fulbright called the attack "flamboyant" but dismissed it as "just a manner of speech."

The Gazette, published in Little Rock, is the largest daily newspaper in Democrat Fulbright's home state. It said Mrs. Mitchell called the paper at 2 a.m., hours after the Senate voted down Carswell's nomination 51 to 45.

"It makes me so damn mad I can't stand it," the Gazette quoted her as saying. "I want you to crucify Fulbright and that's it."

"I don't think she really meant that," Fulbright said later.

"It was just a manner of speech."

The Justice Department refused comment on the incident but said there was no doubt that Mrs. Mitchell was the caller. The Gazette, returning her call, reached Mrs. Mitchell through the White House switchboard.

Last November Mrs. Mitchell ruffled many when she told a television interviewer that an unruly antiwar demonstration outside the Justice Department "looked like the Russian Revolution," and described violent demonstrators as "the very liberal Communists."

The Gazette Thursday quoted Mrs. Mitchell as saying the Carswell vote was "crucial for Arkansas" and the nation, and that Fulbright could have swayed enough votes to ensure Carswell's confirmation.

"He is not representing the people of Arkansas," the account continued. "I love Arkansas and I want everything possible for my state."

Mrs. Mitchell is a native of Pine Bluff, Ark., but Fulbright said she had not lived in the state in many years.

Mrs. Mitchell also said she had talked to three or four "very influential" people from Arkansas who were unhappy with Fulbright's vote and ready to "disown" him, the newspaper said.

It said she refused comment on how her husband felt about Fulbright's vote. "I don't know how my husband feels about it because I am the one most interested," she said.

Fulbright said he didn't take Mrs. Mitchell's comments too seriously.

"I regret her rather flamboyant language," he said. "She is a little unrestrained in the way she expresses herself."

"I'm sure the attorney general had nothing to do with this," he added.

Mrs. Mitchell said her husband told her Fulbright had decided not to seek re-election and that the decision had a bearing on his vote. Fulbright, however, pointed out that his term has another four years to run and said any announcement about running now would be "premature."

He recalled that Mrs. Mitchell had phoned his wife before the Senate rejected President Nixon's previous appointee to the vacant Supreme Court seat, Clement F. Haynsworth Jr. Fulbright supported Haynsworth.

"It's a sad episode," he concluded. "These things are always embarrassing. I don't really like to talk about them."

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