

Mrs. Mitchell 'Mad' at Fulbright Vote

Special to The New York Times

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., April 9—Mrs. John N. Mitchell, wife of the United States Attorney General, telephoned the Arkansas Gazette at 1 A.M. (2 A.M. Washington time) today and urged the newspaper to "crucify" Senator J. W. Fulbright for his vote against confirmation of Judge G. Harrold Carswell to the United States Supreme Court.

"It makes me so damn mad I can't stand it," Mrs. Mitchell told a Gazette reporter. "He could have done a great deal for the whole vote." She said Mr. Fulbright helped sway the vote against Judge Carswell. The nomination was rejected yesterday on a vote of 51 to 45.

She called his vote against confirmation "a damn shame."

"I want you to crucify Fulbright and that's it," Mrs. Mitchell said. The Gazette opposed confirmation of Judge Carswell and it has strongly supported Mr. Fulbright of Arkansas in the past.

Mrs. Mitchell is a native of Pine Bluff, Ark.

"I am from Arkansas," she told the newspaper. "It is my home state and Mr. Fulbright does not represent the state." She said she had talked to three or four persons from Arkansas who were "very influential" and that they had told her they would "disown" the Senator if he did not vote to confirm Judge Carswell.

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

She refused to comment on

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

Mrs. Mitchell said her husband had told her that he had learned that Mr. Fulbright had said he would not run for re-election and that this had probably played a part in his decision on Judge Carswell. Senator Fulbright was re-elected in 1968. He has not said publicly what he plans to do in 1974, when his term will expire.

The Gazette confirmed that it was Mrs. Mitchell who had called by calling her back through the White House switchboard.

Fulbright Finds Flamboyance

WASHINGTON, April 9 (AP)—Senator Fulbright said today that he did not take "too seriously" Mrs. Mitchell's comments.

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

Of Mrs. Mitchell's request that the paper crucify Mr. Fulbright, he said: "I don't think she really meant that. It was just a manner of speech."

He also said he did not hold the Attorney General responsible for his wife's statements. "I'm sure the Attorney General had nothing to do with this," he said.

"Mrs. Mitchell has the right to her views," Mr. Fulbright said. "She was born in Arkansas." But he added: "She hasn't been in Arkansas for many years."

He recalled that Mrs. Mitchell had phoned his wife before the vote on President Nixon's previous Supreme Court nomination of Judge Clement F. Haynsworth Jr., which Mr. Fulbright supported.

Mr. Fulbright said he was "very proud" of the Senate's action, saying it continued "the revitalization of the role of the Senate in our constitutional system."

"The Senate has reasserted itself," he said.

Asked about Mrs. Mitchell's statement that he might not run for re-election, Mr. Fulbright said he had said nothing to indicate this and any announcement would be "premature" four years ahead of the expiration of his term.

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

A Newsmaker Before

LITTLE ROCK, April 9 (AP)—Mrs. Mitchell's comments on events in Washington have brought her into the news before.

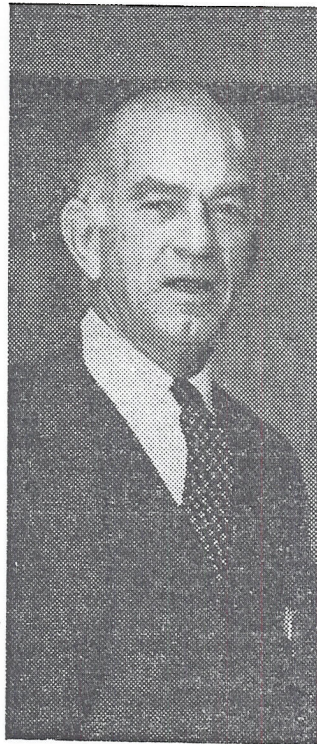
Last November, she told a television interviewer that her husband thought a group of protesters outside the Justice Department "looked like a Russian revolution."

"I don't thin the average Americans realize how desperate it is when a group of demonstrators, not the peaceful demonstrators, but the very liberal Communists, move into Washington," she said.

Her comments came after a splinter group of militants, participating in the Vietnam pro-



United Press International



The New York Times

AT ODDS OVER CARSWELL: Mrs. John N. Mitchell, wife of the Attorney General, and Senator J. W. Fulbright, Arkansas Democrat. She assailed him for having opposed the confirmation of G. Harrold Carswell to Supreme Court.

tests in November, clashed with the police at the Justice Department.

"As my husband has said many times, some of the liberals in this country, he'd like to take them and change them for the Russian Communists," she said.

Three days after her comments were broadcast, the Attorney General said he would prefer to substitute the term "violence-prone militants" for

the world "liberals" used by Mrs. Mitchell.

The Attorney General said he thought his wife had actually used the words "so-called liberals."

In Washington, there was no official comment from the Justice Department today about the call. However department sources said there was no doubt that the caller had indeed been the wife of the Attorney general.