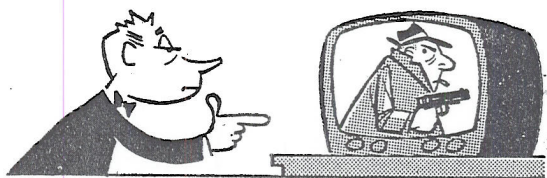


Terrence O'Flaherty



The Hickels and the Mitchells

SEVERAL NEW PIECES were fitted into the jigsaw picture titled "Washington Family Life, Spring 1970" this week when CBS's Mike Wallace called on Secretary of the Interior Walter Hickel and Attorney General John Mitchell and their wives.

No one in show business this season has equaled the "overnight stardom" of Hickel who



Walter Hickel

has emerged as a man of major political proportions not only because he had the courage to stand up and charge the giant Standard Oil Company with more than 100 instances of law breaking, but because he is a damn fine letter writer as well. He looked very good on Tuesday's program.

The President hasn't answered the letter, incidentally, but a staff member told Hickel to

"cool it. All this will blow over in 24 hours."

"I was appalled," said Hickel. "I think the mood of America is deep now. It's there, it's calm, it's hopeful, it's resting — but it's there."

What can satisfy that mood in both young and old? "I think it's going to take a drastic reevaluation of what America needs and what it wants, how it lives life, its relationship to land and water and air — things the whole public believes in and the whole public owns. Here's where the Government must lead. . . . The younger and the more concerned the person is, the more chance there is of getting a new philosophy, a new thought. "They aren't yet locked-in. So listen. You might get a new thought."

Shown with him in their home near Chevy Chase, Md., last Sunday, was Mrs. Hickel and Jack, one of their six sons, a 19-year-old sophomore at the University of San Francisco who is attractive, intelligent and good humored. Mrs. Hickel displayed the same qualities when Wallace asked if she was ever tempted to write a letter or make a telephone call herself.

"Yes I have — to ask them to please listen to my husband because he has something to say."

"Who is it that keeps him from getting his ideas across?" asked Wallace. "Is it the President?"

"I don't know," she replied brightly, "I think I'll call and find out!"

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THE MITCHELLS, Wallace's second guests, suffered by comparison because the Attorney General was generally evasive — as lawyers always are when discussing their own motives — and his wife looked and sounded like a ding-a-ling. Concerning her reputation for making a fool of herself — such as the early morning phone call to The Arkansas Gazette demanding that the publisher "crucify" Senator Fulbright — she answered:

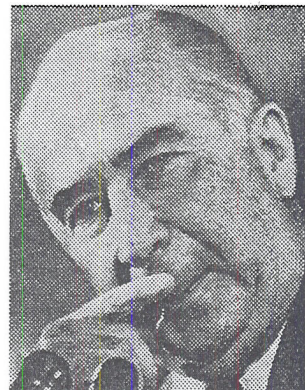
"As long as you can bring a laugh into a society with all the problems and troubles we have I think it's marvelous."

Regarding her new life in the capital: "You must remember I'm a housewife, first and foremost, scrubbin' and doin' all the things a housewife does. It's quite different to all of a sudden arrive to a scene where you're meeting presidents of various and sundry countries, princesses, and dukes and kings and queens . . ."

Mrs. Mitchell admitted being a Democrat, unconverted by her husband. She didn't like Wallace's suggestion that he might be a Supreme Court justice.

"He isn't the type of man to be on the Supreme Court . . . the type who can go through piles and piles of . . . of . . . what do you call 'em darling? . . . BRIEFS! Unbelievable! You take that Chief Justice. He sits up ALL NIGHT LONG goin' through those briefs!"

The Attorney General nodded with the patience born of long suffering.



John Mitchell