

Nixon Aides Will Talk to Senate Quiz - - Mitchell

WASHINGTON -- (UPI)—Former Attorney General John Mitchell said yesterday after conferring with President Nixon that he expected White House aides to testify before the special Senate committee inves-

tigating the Watergate bugging case.

Mitchell said he is himself eager to appear before the Senate committee headed by Sen. Sam Ervin (D-N.C.) and that he was confident that any White House official "who has been remotely involved" would be au-

thorized by Nixon to testify as well.

Mitchell also predicted that the results of the Senate inquiry would not "hurt the presidency or the Republican Party" based on what he now knows about the Watergate case. He said he did not know all the facts that might be present.

Negotiations between the White House and the Ervin committee have been going on for some time, since Nixon said he would invoke executive privilege to prevent any of his past or present aides from testifying under oath and in open session.

"I think that you will find . . . that they will come to an accommodation where everybody in the White House who has been remotely involved will be testifying," Mitchell said. "I fully expect that."

Mitchell, who has denied reports that he himself had any advance knowledge of the Watergate conspiracy, said "I think that everybody who's involved, or has been stated to be involved, will come forward and I don't think it will hurt the presidency or the Republican Party."

Mitchell made the comments in an interview with CBS reporters at LaGuardia Airport in New York. He was returning from a trip to Washington, where he said he had just met with the President.

Ervin has repeatedly said the committee will subpoena White House aides linked to the case if they refused to testify voluntarily. Anyone who did not obey a subpoena would be arrested if necessary, he said.

Asked whether he thought other administration officials, including White House Chief of Staff H. R. Halde- man, would "come clean" if they submitted to questioning, Mitchell replied: "I don't think there's any doubt that they will. There's no question about it. The White House, as I understand it, doesn't have anything to come clean about."

Earlier in the day, Ervin expressed "complete confidence" in the ability of his committee to get to the bottom of the Watergate case.