

SFChronicle APR 26 1973
Watergate Comment

Mitchell 'Doesn't Fear' Indictment

Washington

Former Attorney General John N. Mitchell does not believe he will be indicted by the Watergate grand jury. Nor does he think the scandal may rub off on President Nixon.

In a telephone interview late Tuesday night, Mitchell declared his "conscience is clear" about the break-in and bugging of Democratic National headquarters while he was serving as Mr. Nixon's campaign manager.

Asked if he thought the scandal might touch the

President, Mitchell replied: "I don't see how he could possibly be touched by it. He is trying to get at the cancerous part."

INDICTMENT

Mitchell, who has been named in grand jury testimony as one of the planners of the Watergate break-in, was asked about the possibility of his being indicted.

"I can't imagine what for," he replied. "When you've done what you've done in the interest of your country . . ."

There have been reports

that relations between Mitchell and the President have become strained, but Mitchell said he saw no signs of a split between himself and Mr. Nixon. "I wouldn't believe so in view of past and current associations," he said.

'INTERNECINE'

Mitchell, one of Mr. Nixon's long-time friends and former law partner, spoke of "internecine warfare" among past and present White House aides and said, "Their loyalty should be to the President."

He also spoke of "these

weak little characters who are running for cover," an apparent reference to some of his former associates in the Committee to Re-elect the President, which he headed until July 1. He resigned two weeks after the Watergate break-in.

Asked about the possibility that his wife, Martha, might be called to testify before the Watergate grand jury, as he himself did last week, Mitchell replied:

"That's the last thing in the world. They've got enough troubles."

United Press

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FBI's Watergate Summaries

How Dean Got the Reports

Washington

Presidential counsel John W. Dean III obtained summaries of interviews with Watergate witnesses from the FBI even though Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst had turned down his request for them.

The Los Angeles Times learned yesterday that Kleindienst rejected Dean's request after conferring with assistant attorney gen-

eral Henry E. Petersen, who said it would be improper to give the materials to Dean in the midst of the investigation.

Dean — who has since been implicated in the Watergate scandal — then turned to acting FBI director L. Patrick Gray III. Gray's action in turning over 82 interview summaries to Dean fueled Senate opposition to his nomination as FBI director. Dean sought the materials as part of an internal in-

quiry on Watergate he was conducting for President Nixon.

Gray said through a spokesman yesterday that he did not know Dean first approached Kleindienst about the matter.

Kleindienst and Petersen declined comment yesterday on the Justice Department's refusal to supply Dean with the FBI Watergate interviews last July — a month after the break-in and bug-

ging of Democratic National Headquarters.

Since Kleindienst removed himself from the case April 15, because of the possible involvement of associates, Petersen has been heading the investigation and reporting directly to the President.

"It would be highly improper whether it redounded to my benefit or not to make any comment whatsoever in this matter," Kleindienst said. \$ — —

L.A. Times Service