

Martha Meets the Press

Martha Mitchell hit an Associated Press reporter on the head twice Tuesday night in New York, grabbed her doorman's hat and threw it into the reporter's face, and threatened to "thromp the hell" out of her, the AP reported.

The reporter, Judy Yablonky, was unhurt and does not plan to bring charges of assault against the wife of the former U.S. Attorney General John Mitchell, according to the AP night editor.

Miss Yablonky was one of several AP reporters who have been assigned to watch the Mitchells' Fifth Avenue New York apartment building on day and night shifts. Her editor, Tom Kelly, said that she had stayed on the public sidewalk and did not enter the building.

It was one year ago almost to the day that Mrs. Mitchell has said she was roughed up by a bodyguard while talking to a reporter by telephone from her hotel room in Newport Beach, Calif.

The outbursts, which reportedly came in two install-

ments, began at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, when Mrs. Mitchell is reported to have appeared at the door in search of the reporter who had sent a note via the doorman asking for a comment on the Watergate.

When told that it was Miss Yablonky, the only reporter keeping the vigil at that time, Mrs. Mitchell reportedly said, "You have no right to be here, infringing on my privacy," and stopped a passerby to inquire, "Let me ask you, a private citizen, how do you get rid of people like this?"

Complaining that she had had to apologize to neighbors about the presence of the press, Mrs. Mitchell reportedly responded to the reporter's written questions by saying, "Let me tell you, young lady, you go down to the courts and find out. The court has ordered him not to say anything. Everybody has been tried by The Washington Post and The New York Times.

"You have overstepped your bounds. When I get out of this, I'm going after the press and I'm not kidding you, because you have overstepped your bounds."

At 10 p.m., the wire service said, Mrs. Mitchell re-

portedly emerged again, grabbed the doorman's hat from his head and hit Miss Yablonky in the face with it. Then she reportedly stepped out and hit her on the top of the head with her open hand and threatened her. On both occasions, Miss Yablonky said, Mrs. Mitchell also shouted obscenities.

"You know I can't get away," Mrs. Mitchell is reported to have said at one point. "You know you're disgusting because you're imposing on me."

At another point, she reportedly said, "I have never done anything wrong in my life, ever. I wasn't even sent to the principal's office when I was in school. Go away and forget it."

This encounter reportedly lasted almost an hour, ending when Mrs. Mitchell's daughter and another young woman appeared in a chauffeur-driven car and led her, still shouting, into the building.

Miss Yablonky then left for her office, but another AP reporter was assigned to stay there until 7 a.m. The AP will continue to keep the

vigil with other reporters, Kelly said yesterday.

Mitchell has not been seen leaving his apartment since last Thursday, when he was implicated in the Watergate bugging by Jeb Magruder at Senate hearings. His lawyer said he was not ready to talk to the public right now.

Mrs. Mitchell called White House reporter Helen Thomas of United Press International yesterday and said she is urging her husband to disclose whatever he knows about White House involvement in the Watergate scandal.

She said she still thinks that President Nixon should resign. "I don't like (Vice President Spiro) Agnew, but my God I think he's better than Nixon.

"I've told him (Mitchell) repeatedly that I may not be here many years, but Marty (their daughter) will be and his grandchildren," she said, speaking from her New York apartment. She added, "Under no circumstances will I ever leave my husband. He's the only man I ever loved."