

Mitchell 'Won't Implicate Nixon' *

Washington

Former Attorney General John N. Mitchell "definitely has no information implicating the President in the Watergate bugging or the coverup," according to Mitchell's attorney, William G. Hundley.

Hundley said yesterday Mitchell's scheduled testimony before the Senate Watergate committee early next month "will in no way incriminate the President."

"But to protect our legal position," Hundley said, "I cannot and will not outline the specifics of that testimony beyond its relation to the President."

Mitchell has provided some information to the Senate Watergate committee and the Watergate grand jury. Senate and Justice Department sources said the

thrust of Mitchell's testimony regarding the President is that if Mr. Nixon had any knowledge of the bugging or the coverup, he never conveyed it to Mitchell.

One source said Mitchell "is just saying that he had no conversations with the President showing (such) knowledge."

A Justice Department source said White House records show that Mitchell talked with the President nearly every day by telephone and met with Mr. Nixon at least once a week throughout 1972 — even though Mitchell no longer had an official campaign position after July 1, 1972, when he resigned as the Nixon campaign manager.

Senate investigators are expected to interrogate Mitchell in detail about those conversations.

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*See Sunday Examiner & Chronicle 8 Jul 73, "Mitchell Will Tough It Out," col. 2, paragraphs 4 and 5.