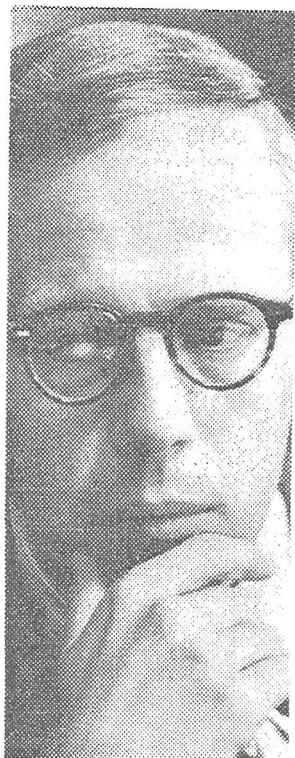


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The New York Times  
John W. Dean 3d



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John N. Mitchell

## Mitchell Says He Opposed Security Plan

By LINDA CHARLTON  
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 9—Former Attorney General John N. Mitchell testified today that he opposed the "Huston plan" for expanded domestic intelligence-gathering because of its illegal aspects, and that he had made his objections known to President Nixon and H. R. Haldeman, the former White House chief of staff.

The plan, drawn up by Tom Charles Huston, a former White House aide, was presented to Mr. Nixon in July, 1970, who initially approved its recommendations. The President said last May, however, that he withdrew his approval five days later, in large part because of the opposition of the late J. Edgar Hoover, then the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Mr. Mitchell said the plan had been brought to his attention by Mr. Hoover, and that he met with Mr. Hoover and with Cartha D. DeLoach, then

the F.B.I. director's deputy, to discuss the "so-called Huston plan." The discussion was brief and not detailed, he said, but included "Mr. Hoover's dissent."

Of his own reaction to the plan, Mr. Mitchell said: "I was of the opinion I needed very little convincing by Mr. DeLoach and Mr. Hoover that this was not the proper approach to the problems that existed at the time, and I joined Mr. Hoover in opposing it implementation."

Mr. Mitchell said he had not been aware that the President had approved the plan briefly. His own opposition, he said, was based on "the very simple reason that, in the case of domestic problems, that I was very much opposed to the thought of surreptitious entry, the mail covers, and all of the other aspects of it that were involved at the particular time."

It was his recollection, Mr. Mitchell said, "that I talked to

both Mr. Haldeman and the President about the subject matter," and that they "were appreciative of my views on the subject matter and reconsidered it and that was the end of it." In response to a question, he added that he had no formal notice of his "understanding [that] the plan had not been implemented" but "was just told verbally that it was nil."

Mr. Huston was quoted yesterday as saying that there had been no formal orders to rescind the plan, only a series of telephone calls to the intelligence agencies involved asking for the return of the memorandums indicating Mr. Nixon's approval. The plan, which Mr. Huston has said was approved by Mr. Haldeman, called for a variety of covert activities, including illegal entry and electronic surveillance of "individuals and groups who pose a major threat to the internal security."