

Mitchell Absent From Trial To Testify in Another Case

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29 (AP) — Former Attorney General John N. Mitchell took time out today from his Watergate cover-up defense to testify for the Government in a narcotics conspiracy case.

While the cover-up trial continued in a courtroom across the hall, Mr. Mitchell testified about disputed wiretaps authorized in a narcotics case in 1970 while he was Attorney General.

The 10 defendants in the case have moved to have their indictments quashed on the ground that Mr. Mitchell did not authorize the wiretaps that produced most of the Government's evidence against them.

Federal law requires that wiretaps be authorized by the Attorney General or an assistant.

The application for a court wiretap order in this case bears the initials "JNM". In testimony before United States District Judge Joseph Waddy, Mr. Mitchell said that the initials were his.