

NYTimes
McCord Declares

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That Mrs. Mitchell Was Forcibly Held

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19 (UPI)—James W. McCord Jr., a convicted Watergate conspirator, said today that Mrs. John N. Mitchell was "basically" kidnapped in 1972 to keep her ignorant of Watergate.

Mr. McCord said Mrs. Mitchell had not lied when she said she had been manhandled and drugged to keep her from learning the truth about the Watergate break-in.

"Martha's story is true—basically the woman was kidnapped," Mr. McCord said in an interview.

As for former Attorney General Mitchell, Mr. McCord said, "I think he was fond of her to a degree. But I don't think the man ever leveled with her.

"I think that Martha was ignorant of most of his activities. Shocked is probably more proper. John Mitchell didn't want her to know."

And, Mr. McCord said, H. R. Haldeman and other top aides of President Nixon were jealous of Mrs. Mitchell's popularity and speaking engagements, and wanted to do whatever they could to embarrass her.

Mr. McCord was Mrs. Mitchell's bodyguard before he became chief of security for Mr. Nixon's re-election campaign. Mrs. Mitchell has complained that on the weekend the Watergate break-in was discovered in June, 1972, she was held political prisoner at the Newport Inn at Newport Beach, Calif.

She said she had been given injections and held in her room against her will. Mr. McCord said "they kept her locked up and she began to be afraid for her life."

He said that Mr. Haldeman—then President Nixon's chief of staff—had been involved in "a great effort in the White House to discredit Martha Mitchell."

"They were extremely jealous of her and feared her because she was very candid," Mr. McCord said.

Electric Bills Tied to Costs

PITTSBURGH (UPI) — Duquesne Light Company has prepared a pamphlet showing six reasons why customers' electric bills are going up. The reasons are construction, inflation, financing costs, environmental costs, taxes and fuel. The company said taxes take the biggest share of any rate increase—about 55 per cent.

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