

Mitchell's Wife Says He Likened Protest to 'Russian Revolution'



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Mrs. John N. Mitchell in TV interview shown yesterday

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 21 — The wife of Attorney General John N. Mitchell says that her husband compared last Saturday's antiwar demonstration here to the Russian revolution.

Mrs. Mitchell, interviewed on the Columbia Broadcasting System's morning news by Marya McLaughlin, said that she herself had not witnessed the demonstration.

"I will tell you," she went on, "my husband made the comment to me, looking out the Justice Department it looked like the Russian revolution going on."

The Attorney General was presumably referring to the point in the demonstration during which a group of extremists was dispersed by tear gas at the Justice Department.

The massive demonstration against the Nixon Administration's policy in Vietnam attracted a crowd estimated at 250,000 to the capital, making it the largest ever held there.

A Liberal 'Exchange'

Mrs. Mitchell said that her husband "has said many times, some of the liberals in this country, he'd like to take them and change them for the Russian Communists."

The interview, the second segment of a two-part program, took place in the Mitchells' home in the Watergate Apartments. Afterward, Mrs. Mitchell could not be reached for comment and the Attorney General would not comment on the interview.

Regarding the demonstrations, Mrs. Mitchell said: "I think this is just too, too bad for the nation's capital to have anything like this."

The blond, outspoken wife of the Attorney General attributed the demonstrations to "liberal Communists" and indicated there was concern that the city might be destroyed by the demonstrators.

"I don't think the average Americans realize how desperate it is when a group of demonstrators, not peaceful demonstrators, but the very liberal Communists move into Washington," Mrs. Mitchell said.

'A Great Catastrophe'

"This place could become a complete fortress," she continued. "You could have every building in Washington burned down. It could be a great, great catastrophe."

"And this is the thing I worried about way before I came to Washington, knowing the liberal element in this country is so, so against us. As my husband has said many times, some of the liberals in this country, he'd like to take them and change them for the Russian Communists."

Mrs. Mitchell acknowledged that the demonstrations had bothered the Administration.

Asked whether she thought that the demonstrations had had any effect on the President, his Administration and Mr. Mitchell, she replied: "It is a very crucial time for all of them."