

Martha Mitchell Raps Viet War, Fulbright

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Martha Mitchell, wife of the attorney general, said early today "the Vietnam war stinks" and "If it were not for Fulbright we'd be out of it."

Mrs. Mitchell, who has feuded in the past with Sen. J. William Fulbright (D-Ark.) was asked what she thought the senator's motive is.

"He wants to promote himself," she said. "The war would have been over 16 months ago if it hadn't been for Fulbright."

The cabinet wife volunteered her views on the

war and the senator to reporters on Air Force One while it was flying President Nixon, Attorney General and Mrs. John Mitchell and other officials back to Washington from the Western White House.

Unity

Mrs. Mitchell came back to the press section of the aircraft, sat down and chatted, played a bit of gin rummy and bridge, and said along the way there was something she would like to say. And she wanted newsmen to take it down.

"If we could stick togeth-

er as we used to," she said, "we would have been out of the war a helluva long time ago. What we need is a united America ... We have no reason to go to Paris and try to find a common ground when they realize over there we're not in agreement."

This was a reference to the Paris peace negotiations.

Mrs. Mitchell said we shouldn't have gotten into the war in the first place.

When asked whose fault it was that we got into the war, she replied:

"The Nixon Administration is not at fault. The Nixon Administration inherited it and they're trying their best to get out of the war."

When a reporter said Nixon had backed former President Lyndon B. Johnson's actions and decisions on the war, Mrs. Mitchell replied:

Background

"The only thing I know, the thing I feel most seriously about, is that if this country were wise enough to get together and feel we were a united country and not a divided country, this is the most important thing in the history of the country."

She added that she knows nothing about the statistics and the military background of the war, but went on to say:

"But this is an unpopular war, an extremely unpopular war. But if somebody would only take a few months off in Congress and say let's get together, this should not be a political operation — we need something that would bring us together, not separate us."

Asked what she would suggest, she replied:

"I suggest that Congress say to the American people we're in a very horrible state of war which the American people do not subscribe to ... consequently, we should try our very best to get out."

When the attorney general later walked back to the press section, a reporter asked him if he would like to hear what his wife had to say.

"Heavens no," Mitchell replied. "I might jump out the window."