

MITCHELL ASSAILS 'STUPID' STUDENTS

In Broad Attack, He Lashes
Out at Educators, Too

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18 (UPI)—Attorney General John N. Mitchell was quoted today as having said that students, professors and "these stupid bastards who are ruining our educational institutions" were uninformed about the issues within government.

At a Women's National Press Club cocktail buffet in Washington Wednesday night, Mr. Mitchell was reported to have said that street violence and campus unrest were the biggest political issues this year and that "this country is going so far right you are not even going to recognize it."

Kandy Stroud, a reporter for Women's Wear Daily, said she had interviewed Mr. Mitchell. She said that she had identified herself at the start of the conversation. She said that the Attorney General had told her that he had just come from three Republican fund-raising parties.

A Justice Department spokesman said today in Washington: "Attorney General Mitchell attended a Women's National Press Club reception Wednesday night, but did not grant an interview to a reporter from Women's Wear Daily or any other newspapers. Comments attributed to the Attorney General, apparently based on fragmentary and overheard conversations at a social gathering, are distorted and highly inaccurate."

Women's Wear Daily could

not immediately be reached for comment.

Referring to President Nixon, Mr. Mitchell was quoted as having said:

"He's probably the most informed President there's ever been. He reads everything and remembers it all. I really can't understand how people can call him isolated. He's aware of everything that's going on.

'Professors Just as Bad'

"I'll tell you who's not informed, though. It's these stupid kids. Why, they don't know the issues. They pick the rhetoric that they want to hear right off the top of an issue and never finish reading to the bottom. Why, I talked to the kids from the Harvard Law School in my office and I was flabbergasted at how uninformed they are about what's going on inside government.

"And the professors are just as bad if not worse. They don't know anything. Nor do these stupid bastards who are ruining our educational institutions.

"You know, we have the finest educational system in the world and they're trying to destroy it. Well, I'll tell you what's going to happen. If they keep on, nobody is going to support any of these institutions any more and we're going to lose our precious heritage, the higher educational institutions in this country."

Kennedy, Bayh Cited

In another part of the interview, the Attorney General was quoted as having said:

"You know, violence in the streets and campus unrest are the major issues according to every poll that's been taken. And all these Johnny-come-latelys like [Senator Edward M.] Kennedy and [Senator Birch] Bayh are all jumping on the bandwagon. Unfortunately,

there's no room for them. The wagon's already full."

"Listen," Mr. Mitchell reportedly said, "there is no such thing as the New Left. This country is going so far right you are not even going to recognize it."

On Henry A. Kissinger, President Nixon's national security affairs adviser, Mr. Mitchell was quoted as having said:

"Henry's an egocentric maniac. He loves to appear in the newspapers with Jill St. John. But when he gets back to the office he's really a brilliant man. He's indispensable. He's on the firing line every day."

And on marijuana, the Attorney General reportedly said to Miss Stroud:

"My dear, don't you realize you can take a real trip in marijuana? These stupid jerks who smoke the stuff don't realize what they're getting themselves into. Now that we've stopped the flow of the milder stuff in the United States, they're going outside the country and now the pushers are importing the cannabis plant from other countries. The same kind of stuff the opium smokers use. It's hashish and you can really become addicted to it."

The interview with Mr. Mitchell appeared in today's editions of Women's Wear Daily.

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Administering Drug Problem

To the Editor:

The comments attributed to Attorney General John N. Mitchell in Women's Wear Daily (news story, Sept. 19), if correct, raise among other questions a serious one with regard to legislation pending in Congress. I refer to bills now in conference (S.3246 and H.R.18583) that would place the main responsibility for regulating drug-related activities, including research, under the Justice Department, not the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

The Attorney General is quoted as having said "the pushers are importing the cannabis plant from other countries. The same kind of stuff that opium smokers use. It's hashish and you can really become addicted to it."

It would be difficult to pile up more erroneous statements in so few words. Marijuana is a cannabis plant and so is hashish, a stronger variety growing in some parts of the world. They have no relation, botanical, or pharmacological, to opium, the product of the opium poppy. All medical evidence concurs that cannabis products, whatever their strength, are not addictive.

It is ironic that these statements should supposedly have been made by Mr. Mitchell in the same interview in which he allegedly referred to students and professors as "uninformed" and "stupid bastards." His alleged ominous prediction that our country "is going so far right you are not even going to recognize it," is probably based on equally solid factual knowledge.

But persons like myself, less concerned with comparative intelligence testing than in the administration of laws that affect biomedical problems, feel justified in asking Congress to reject the proposed legislation and to place the responsibility for the study and supervision of drug problems (except illegal sales) where it belongs, that is, in the H.E.W. Department.

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Cambridge, Mass., Sept. 19, 1970

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