

'72 MITCHELL ROLE DOUBTED BY AIDE

Kleindienst Says Students
'Don't Believe' Nixon

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7 (UPI) — Deputy Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst said today that Attorney General John N. Mitchell, who guided President Nixon's 1968 election victory, does not want to run his 1972 campaign for re-election.

"We're very, very close," Mr. Kleindienst said of Mr. Mitchell during an interview. "I see him twice a day. He doesn't want to conduct the campaign. He has never suggested to me that he wants to quit" his present job. "Of course," Mr. Kleindienst continued, "John Mitchell would do anything the President asked. If the President asked him to run the campaign, John Mitchell would. I think the President is going to get re-elected, but it won't be so easy by any means."

Mr. Mitchell had no comment on Mr. Kleindienst's remarks, but he has been quoted recently as saying he did not plan to quit as Attorney General to run Mr. Nixon's campaign.

Mr. Kleindienst said that one of the obstacles to an easy second term was the President's credibility gap with the young, which he says Mr. Nixon inherited from President Johnson.

College Problems Noted

Mr. Kleindienst, who has visited several college campuses as part of a Justice Department campaign to improve its communication with students, said: "They don't believe us. They believe as they were taught to believe about Johnson that Nixon wants to be on a big white horse like Caesar in the Vietnam war. They don't believe we believe in free speech and the right of dissent.

"Their disbelief in our credibility stems from the environment that's existed on college campuses for many years," Mr. Kleindienst said. "Johnson's political handling of the war and the draft inequities had a traumatic effect on these kids. The lack of credibility has been transferred to Nixon."

Mr. Kleindienst served as national director of field operations for Mr. Nixon in 1968 and for Barry Goldwater in 1964 and he shares the Attorney General's apparent reluctance about going back on the campaign trail.

"I'd do anything the President wanted, but I really wouldn't want to do that again."

Campaign Called Success

Turning to criticism of the way the Republicans handled the recent elections—some of it from the ousted Interior Secretary, Walter J. Hickel, Mr. Kleindienst said the only reason the campaign promoted criticism "is because it was so successful."

"I was one of those in the Administration — when my opinion was sought—that recommended the President become directly involved in the Senatorial elections. His vital programs were having tough enough sledding," he said. "I would recommend the same approach in 1972."

Mr. Kleindienst has been rumored as a possible successor to Mr. Mitchell if the Attorney General runs Mr. Nixon's 1972 campaign. But he said he would be "happy to go back to the provinces," if he lost out on the No. 1 job, so the new Attorney General could pick his own deputy.

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