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MITCHELL ASSAILS PLEA BY HIS WIFE

She Suggested Nixon Quit
Because of Watergate

WASHINGTON, May 6 (UPI) — Former Attorney General John N. Mitchell said today that it was "ridiculous" for anybody to take seriously his wife's suggestion that President Nixon resign because of the Watergate scandal.

Mr. Mitchell, in a statement issued through Mr. Nixon's re-election campaign committee here, also chided United Press International and one of its White House correspondents, Helen Thomas, for reporting comments Mrs. Mitchell made about the President in a telephone call Saturday night to Miss Thomas.

During the conversation, which Mrs. Mitchell initiated from her New York apartment and which she urged Miss Thomas to report quickly, she said: "Mr. President should resign immediately. I think he let the country down. It's going to take a hell of a lot to get him . . . He's been compromised."

Asked why she thought Mr. Nixon should step down, Mrs. Mitchell replied; "I think in order to give credibility to the Republican party and credibility to the United States."

Text of Statement

Mr. Mitchell, who has been mentioned frequently in allegations of an effort to cover up high-level Administration involvement in the bugging of Democratic offices at the Watergate building, issued this statement:

"Martha's late-night telephone calls have been good fun and games in the past. However, I'm surprised and dis-

appointed that United Press International would take advantage of a personal phone call made under the stress of the current situation and treat it as a sensational public statement.

"I think that under all the circumstances, Martha is entitled to more consideration and courtesy than that, particularly from a reporter whom she had considered a personal friend.

"Any thought of the President resigning is ridiculous."

U.P.I. said Mrs. Mitchell had made clear that she was speaking for quotation and was not calling on a personal basis.