



UPI Telephoto

Peter Rodino and John Mitchell chatted during a break

Mitchell Won't Talk

Washington

Former Attorney General John N. Mitchell fenced for hours with house impeachment investigators yesterday.

"He's trying to get the benefit of the Fifth Amendment without using it," commented Representative John Seiberling (Dem-Ohio) about Mitchell's testimony before a closed session of the House Judiciary Committee.

"He doesn't recall things," said Representative Hamilton Fish Jr. (Rep-N.Y.). "He's a genius at not recol-

lecting."

Mitchell reportedly told the committee that he did not wish to plead the Fifth Amendment against self-incrimination but neither did he want to prejudice his right to a fair trial in the Watergate coverup case.

The committee wanted to know about the coverup. The panel was interested in the events of March 21, 1973, the day President Nixon and his aides discussed demands for money from Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt Jr. and also the day \$75,000 was delivered to Hunt's lawyer,

William O. Bittman.

The coverup indictment listed among the overt acts in the alleged conspiracy a telephone conversation between Mitchell and H. R. Haldeman, White House staff chief, at 12:30 p.m. on March 21.

But Mitchell told the committee the telephone call had nothing to do with Watergate or payments to Hunt. He said Haldeman phoned to say that the President wanted Mitchell to come to Washington.

Associated Press