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Devilish, With a Plug For Martha

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NEW YORK — (AP) —

Former U.S. Attorney General John N. Mitchell said yesterday there was no connection between the Republican Party's choice of San Diego for its 1972 nominating convention and the Justice Department's settlement of an antitrust suit against International Telephone & Telegraph Corp.

"There is about as much connection with the ITT antitrust suit and the Republican convention going to San Diego as there is between the Lord and the devil," Mitchell told the Women's National Republican Club.

Referring to the newspaper columnist who first alleged a connection, Mitchell added: "And I draw no inferences with respect to Jack Anderson."

The Senate Judiciary Committee has been investigating whether there was a link between the settlement of the antitrust actions while Mitchell was attorney general and a reported ITT pledge to underwrite up to \$400,000 for the Republican National convention next August.

At the club's 51st annual luncheon at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, Mitchell jokingly mentioned his wife's name in the case. He said, "I find it hard to believe the Justice Department would ever have trouble with a telephone company in view of all that Martha has done for them."