

MITCHELL TO SEEK SUBVERSION CURBS

Presides at the Swearing-In
of Internal Security Aide

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 12—Attorney General John N. Mitchell disclosed today that the Nixon Administration would ask Congress to pass new antisubversive legislation soon after the new session begins in January.

Mr. Mitchell said the Justice Department would also shift some antisubversive functions from other divisions to the Internal Security Division, as part of a broader program to strengthen the department's capacity to deal with subversion and sabotage by radical elements.

Mr. Mitchell said that his department had spent a year studying various ways to improve the Federal antisubversion laws. He said that so many suggestions were still under consideration that he could not say now what recommendations would be sent to Congress next year.

New Assistant Sworn In

The Attorney General made the statement in an informal conversation after he presided at the swearing in of Robert C. Mardian as the assistant attorney general in charge of the Internal Security Division.

Mr. Mardian was sworn in at 4:30 P.M. today by Associate Justice Potter Stewart in the Great Hall of the Justice Department. Mr. Mardian is a 47-year-old California lawyer, an aggressive, tough-minded conservative and an old friend of Deputy Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst.

The selection of Mr. Mardian has been interpreted by observers as a step by the Administration to pump new life into the Internal Security Division and to direct its activities against the radicalism that has produced bombings, attacks on policemen and campus violence.

In recent years the division has dwindled in size and activity, as court decisions have riddled key provisions of the antisubversion laws that it is supposed to enforce. Most of these laws were cold-war measures designed to cope with espionage by the Communist party. They usually proved ineffective against black militants and militants of the New Left.

Mr. Mitchell said that it had not yet been decided which functions will be shifted to the Internal Security Division. At present, the Criminal Division has jurisdiction to prosecute violations of the antiriot law and the laws against destruction of Government property and bombings, which often involve campus violence.

The Civil Rights Division also frequently becomes involved in campus disturbances, through its responsibility to prosecute the police or National Guardsmen if they use unwarranted violence against demonstrators. Mr. Mitchell has the authority to shift functions from one division to another without Congressional permission.

Coordinating Office

He said that a coordinating office would be created within the Justice Department, and that all incidents touching on radical violence would be brought there. That agency would then decide whether the Internal Security, Criminal or Civil Rights Divisions would handle the problem.

According to Mr. Mitchell, the department is considering endorsing some antisubversive bills now pending in Congress, as well as offering proposals of its own. He would not say which pending bills were being considered.

The Nixon Administration has been under some pressure from conservatives to throw its weight behind a comprehensive antisubversive bill that has been introduced by Senator James O. Eastland, Democrat of Mississippi, who is chairman of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee.

His bill contains 36 separate measures, including controversial proposals making it a crime to give aid and comfort to the Vietcong, toughening the law against advocating the overthrow of the Government, and creating a central agency to investigate security risks in the Government.