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Mitchell Tells of Action Against 170

Special to The New York Times

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 20 — Attorney General John N. Mitchell disclosed today that more than 170 state and local public officeholders or former officials had been indicted or convicted in the last 32 months in the Department of Justice's efforts against organized crime "and its handmaiden, official corruption."

The figure of 170 includes only those offenses connected with organized crime, or those charges that appeared to link the defendants with organized crime, Mr. Mitchell said in a luncheon address here to The Associated Press Managing Editors Association.

Mr. Mitchell said the individuals "range from positions of judgeships to state elective officials, from mayors to councilmen, from law enforcement officers to purchasing agents," and represent "21 cities, 12 counties and 5 states."

Wiretapping Cited

Describing the efforts of the Nixon Administration against organized crime, the Attorney General said "more than 1,400 organized crime and gambling figures have been convicted in the past three years and more than 2,100 are in various stages

of prosecution as a result of F.B.I. investigations."

Mr. Mitchell attributed this success in part to the increasing use of wiretapping by the F.B.I. and the passage by Congress of the Organized Crime Control Act to protect and grant immunity to witnesses.

He said that, "in less than three years, approximately 350 court-authorized wiretaps resulted in more than 1,500 arrests" and "more than 170 convictions."

But he added that, because of the "long time before many courts can hear these cases, we have no true correlation as yet between wiretaps and convictions."

100 Key Witnesses

The Attorney General said that largely through the provisions in the Organized Crime Control Act, the Federal Government assisted "approximately 100 key witnesses whose testimony has been vital in bringing organized criminals to justice."

"We have relocated many of them in new jobs under assumed names and not one of these has been lost," Mr. Mitchell said.

Mr. Mitchell said convictions of "high echelon figures in or-

ganized crime syndicates" have increased from 23 in fiscal 1968 to a total of 123 in the last three fiscal years.

"In New York City, where there are five organized crime 'families', four of the five bosses or acting bosses have either

Officeholders in Crime Drive

been indicted or convicted," the Attorney General said.

"In Chicago, nine out of the 13 top gangland leaders have been brought under the processes of justice, and for months the top spot has gone begging," he continued.

"In New England, the top leadership is partially decimated. Of the nine leaders who have been identified, two are on death row and three—including the boss—are in prison," he said.