

Husband Acts

A New Voice for Martha Mitchell

Washington

Attorney General John N. Mitchell has hired a press secretary for his outspoken wife, Martha, as an aftermath of her latest verbal foray into public print.

The Justice Department said yesterday that Mitchell hired Kay Woestendieck Thursday. She is a former women's editor of the Houston Post.

The department said Mrs. Woestendieck went on Mitchell's personal payroll yesterday.

She will work out of the Mitchell's fashionable Watergate apartment, at least for now.

The decision to hire Mrs. Woestendieck came shortly after the Arkansas Gazette in Little Rock reported that Mrs. Mitchell had telephoned the newspaper at 2 a.m. Thursday to criticize Senator J. William Fulbright (Dem.-Ark.) for his vote against G. Harrold Carswell's nomination to the Supreme Court.

Mrs. Mitchell said: "I want you to crucify Fulbright and that's that." The newspaper said she also said of

Fulbright:

"He Makes me so damn mad I can't stand it. He could have done a great deal for the whole vote."

Blonde — like her new boss — Mrs. Woestendieck told a reporter, "I want to help her but I'm not clanging a bunch of gates shut. She's not going to quit seeing the press."

But her first unofficial action yesterday was to say Mrs. Mitchell did not wish to discuss the Carswell matter further.

"That happened yesterday," Mrs. Woestendieck said. "We are looking to every day as it comes."

If Mitchell is upset about his wife's behavior he doesn't show it.

"I love her, that's all I have to say," he said Thursday night at a dinner.

It also seems unlikely that Martha Mitchell has surprised her high school classmates from Pine Bluff. Years ago they wrote under her yearbook picture:

"I love its gentle warble

"I love its gentle flow

"I love to wind my tongue up

"And I love to let it go."

Associated Press