

Mitchell Supports The Right to Rally

San Antonio, Tex.

Attorney General John N. Mitchell said yesterday, that police cannot expect political demonstrations "to be conducted like prayer meetings."

Nevertheless, Mitchell said, peaceful exercise of freedom of speech and assembly should be encouraged by state and local officials.

"Merely to tolerate freedom of expression is not good enough," Mitchell said in remarks for the Texas Bar Association.

"There is more freedom of speech and more freedom of assembly today than at any time in our nation's history," Mitchell said, "and so long as I am attorney general I will do everything within my power to see that these rights continue to flourish."

He outlined guidelines for dealing with demonstrations "that we in the Federal government follow in Washington and which I believe should be considered by local and state authorities.

"Realize that most large political demonstrations may entail a certain amount of inconvenience to local residents, may impose additional expenses on local taxpayers and may engender wide-

spread community hostility to demonstrators."

Mitchell admonished police to "remember that they are professional law enforcement personnel who should not be swayed by their approval or disapproval of the views expressed by the demonstrators."

Mitchell said the Federal government had found in the District of Columbia that the key to a successful demonstration control is careful preparation and extended negotiations with the demonstrators.

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